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Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

TNA Official, Others View Sudanese Peace Talks

EA2005195394 Khartoum SUNA in English 1615 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Nairobi, 20 May (SUNA)—Deputy speaker of the Transitional National Assembly (TNA) Angelo Beda, Bahr al-Jabal State's Wali [Governor] Mrs. Agnes Lokudu and director of the peace department at the Foreign Ministry Mathiang Malwal have held here on Friday [20 May] a news conference on the resolutions of Juba political forum for peace forces.

Beda said that over 350 of the southern leaderships, besides representatives of international press and some ambassadors accredited to Khartoum, had participated in the forum, describing the forum as a "real gathering" to hear the voice of southern citizens, who confirmed their insistence on the unity of Sudanese soil and called for ending the war.

He added that the existing government is the only one that sat to negotiate seriously with the rebels' movement to end the southern Sudan war by presenting the Federal Government system as a comprehensive solution.

Mrs. Agnes Lokudu said that the forum asserted that the southern leaderships are aware of the Sudanese people's interests and not toys in the hands of government, as termed by the rebels' government and some hostile (?mass) media.

Yemen's New Arab League Delegate Arrives in Cairo

NC2005174794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 May (MENA)—Ahmad Muhammad Luqman, Yemen's newly appointed permanent delegate to the Arab League, arrived in Cairo from Sanaa this evening.

He will replace Ahmad al-Shajani, who passed away in London and was buried in Cairo last Sunday.

Luqman was Yemeni minister of labor and social affairs [title as received].

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 10 May

NC2005183894

[Editorial report] The following review of the 10 May issue of Cairo 'AQIDATI summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Al-Azhar and Ulema Support Organizing Religious Rulings
2. Ulema and Preachers Conference Convenes After 'Id
3. Al-Mansurah University Organizes Course for Prayer Leaders
4. Writer Praises Banning Satellite Dishes in Governorates
5. Writer Views Book on Islamic Resistance to West's Domination
6. Writer Criticizes Foreign-Funded Research
7 World Islamic Council Appeals to Yemenis To Stop Bloodshed
8. Writer Slams Western Indifference to Bosnian Tragedy

AL-AZHAR AND ULEMA SUPPORT ORGANIZING RELIGIOUS RULINGS

A 2,000-word report on pages 1 and 10 by Musa Hal and Tariq 'Abdallah notes that the Islamic ulema and al-Azhar Mosque have expressed their support for a call outlined in 'AQIDATI's board chairman Samir Rajab's column "Rightfully, I say" published in the 3 May issue to enact a law unifying fatwas [religious rulings]. The report says that the ulema stressed that passing religious rulings is a "serious task" that must not be left to irresponsible and unqualified people. The ulema say that al-Azhar Mosque and the Islamic Research Council are the only parties qualified to pass religious rulings so that the Muslims may unify their stance and eliminate their differences. The report cites named ulemas' views on the issue.

ULEMA AND PREACHERS CONFERENCE CONVENES AFTER 'ID

A 150-word unattributed report on page 2 notes that the second general conference of ulemas and mosque preachers will convene under Awqaf Minister Muhammad Mahjub after 'Id al-Adha. The three-day conference will discuss numerous important issues affecting the Islamic and Arab nations through research papers prepared by senior ulemas. It will also discuss the tasks of preachers during the current stage.

AL-MANSURAH UNIVERSITY ORGANIZES COURSE FOR PRAYER LEADERS

A 1,200-word report by Khalid al-Kilani on page 3 states that after a request from the Awqaf Ministry, al-Mansurah University has arranged an advanced course for prayer leaders and preachers in al-Daqahliyah Governorate to qualify them for the job. A named prayer leader said that the course opened the participants' minds to new horizons and linked them to their "political and legal society." They learned how economic wars—which affect the Islamic world, particularly Egypt—are launched. The head of the Legal Studies and Consultations Center, Dr. Muhsin al-Bih, said these courses will broaden the role of universities in serving society. He notes that the center drafted a program outlining the "state's general policy" in all fields so that the prayer leaders will benefit from their activities.

WRITER PRAISES BANNING SATELLITE DISHES IN GOVERNORATES

In a 700-word column "With All Frankness" on page 6, Basyuni al-Halawani praises the Dumyat and al-Daqahliyah governors' decision to ban the use of satellite dishes in cafes and clubs to protect ethics and prevent perversion. He says that satellite programs carry dissolute films representing foreign values and behavior into our Islamic society. He says this deluge of films is designed to extricate what has remained of our Islamic roots, values, and traditions. He notes that several Arab and Islamic countries have made "courageous decisions" banning the use of satellite dishes.

WRITER VIEWS BOOK ON ISLAMIC RESISTANCE TO WEST'S DOMINATION

In his 800-word "Islamic Views" column entitled "The Western Challenge to the Islamic World" on page 7, Islamic Writer Dr. Muhammad 'Imarah discusses a book by Jewish writer Martin Kramer, who reviews Muslim ways of resisting the Western invasion of the Islamic world. He notes that Kramer lists all the conferences that the Muslim leaders have held on this subject, stressing that they have all failed. Kramer concludes by saying that the Muslims never agree on anything. 'Imarah admits that Kramer is right that the Muslims have consistently differed in all their conferences, but he notes that this is only half the truth because he fails to say why they differed. 'Imarah asks if the Muslims differ because they believe in Islam.

WRITER CRITICIZES FOREIGN-FUNDED RESEARCH

In a 650-word column, Majdi Salim reviews development of the colonialists' attempts to dominate other countries. He notes that the colonialists now have "local ideological and cultural agents." He says that the West's attempts to dominate the Islamic countries have local advocates. Under the claims of "freedom and civilization," they introduce the West's defects. The "most dangerous" thing they are doing is their public activities and research on social, economic, and cultural aspects of Egyptian society funded by foreigners. This research must be checked, he concludes.

WORLD ISLAMIC COUNCIL APPEALS TO YEMENIS TO STOP BLOODSHED

A 150-word report by Jamal Salim on page 20 notes that the World Islamic Council for Relief and Call has issued a statement appealing to the Yemeni parties to exercise self-restraint and immediately stop "the bloodshed of Muslims." The report notes that the council appealed to the Arab and Islamic heads of state to act promptly to contain the crisis and initiate a fraternal dialogue between the two parties. The statement "condemns the enemies of Yemeni unity who instigated the sedition."

WRITER SLAMS WESTERN INDIFFERENCE TO BOSNIAN TRAGEDY

A 300-word column by 'Adil Dayf on page 21 notes President Clinton's defense of U.S. vacillation on dealing with the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the West's inaction. He says that this reflects the magnitude of the tragedy of the Muslims in Bosnia and Western "plotting and indifference." He says that the new world order is "plotting" against the Muslims and is "rewarding" the Serbs for their crimes against Muslims.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 13 May

NC2105045894

[Editorial report] The following review of the 13 May issue of Cairo AL-SHA'B summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Anger Over Lawyer's Death
2. Eyewitness Account of Detention, Torture
3. Islamic Writer Banned From AL-AHRAM
4. Sudanese Minister Interviewed
5. A Muslim Brotherhood Version of Pluralism

ANGER OVER LAWYER'S DEATH

Expressions of anger by the Bar Association and other quarters over the death of lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani while in police custody is featured in more than one article. A front-page banner headline reads "Madani's Death Marks a Climax in Government Terror." A 300-word front-page report by Ashraf Khalil and Khali Yunus describe a gathering at the Bar Association on 12 May and a planned demonstration on 17 May. The report notes that: "The Arab Bar Association issued a statement denouncing the crime and stressing its full solidarity with the colleagues at the Egyptian Bar Association."

A 600-word letter by the New York-based human rights group Middle East Watch to President Mubarak appears on pages 1 and 7. The letter calls on President Mubarak "to take immediate action to reveal the cause of death of 'Abd-al-Harith Madani and ensure that those responsible for the incident will receive the harshest punishment under the law."

A 3,000-word report by 'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im, Ashraf Khalil, Khalid Yunus, and Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid on page 3 describes a rally held at the Bar Association in Cairo on 10 May to denounce Madani's death. Various prominent lawyers, including a member of the People's Assembly, Kamal Khalid, speak on the occasion, denouncing "police brutality" and "human rights abuses."

Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn, in a wide-ranging 5,000-word commentary on page 5, finds an epic dimension in the lawyers' anger: "Let the upcoming strike by the lawyers be a roaring expression of our pent-up anger. Let all other sections of society come to

the lawyers' support. Heads of professional associations and of parties should march with the lawyers in protest.

"Yes, we have to answer a challenge with a challenge. They [the government] wanted to intimidate us, but we, God willing, will turn this into an epic that will lead us to restore human rights in this country."

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF DETENTION, TORTURE

An unattributed 350-word report on page 3 cites a former detainee recounting his experience while in police custody. The former detainee, Midhat Khalil Jalal, was also "the last witness who saw martyr 'Abd-al-Harith Madani before his death."

Jalal says that he was arrested on 26 April 1994 on charges of distributing leaflets "warning of sectarian strife" in the al-Haram neighborhood of Cairo. He adds: "Two days later, I was taken to the State Security Intelligence building on Jabir Ibn-Hayyan Street. There, I was blindfolded. An officer came into the room who asked me a lot of such questions as: What group do you belong to? What books do you read? What mosques do you go to? When he did not like my answers he gave me a good beating, shouting insults I had never heard before. He also said that detention would do me good."

Jalal then says that he was taken to an overcrowded cell, where on the night of 26 April [contradiction with the dates mentioned above is as published] he met lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani. He says that Madani "stayed with us in the cell for one hour. We asked him why he was arrested and he said: I do not know. He was self-composed. An hour later he was taken away. We did not see him any more. Later I heard news of his death on radio London [the BBC]."

Describing torture in the "terror cell," Jalal says: "Every time the cell's door opened, we would die of fear, particularly at 1200 and 2300, the times of the 'torture shifts' when some of us would be led away after being blindfolded to a room on top of the cell. The detainee would be suspended at the door and a bout of terrible torture would begin, including electric shock and whipping. When the victim fell silent we would know that he had fainted. He would return in a terrible state, not even able to drink water.

"I helped one of the detainees drink water because his hand 'was too stiff' from frequent 'hanging' at the door. The bodies of the victims were full of bruises and cuts. I was released on Friday, 29 April, but before that one of the officers told me that if I was ever seen again in the mosque to which I go, I would be thrown into jail for life."

ISLAMIC WRITER BANNED FROM AL-AHRAM

As part of his lengthy and versatile page-5 commentary, 'Adil Husayn denounces the banning of Islamic writer Fahmi Huwaydi from the semi-official newspaper AL-AHRAM. He writes:

"Who decided to ban the distinguished writer Fahmi Huwaydi from writing in AL-AHRAM? Fahmi Huwaydi is an internationally acclaimed writer and to prevent him from writing is to deal a savage blow to the country's modest scope of free expression.

"The ban was preceded and accompanied by a campaign in pro- government newspapers attacking everything Huwaydi writes. The campaign targeted not only Huwaydi but anyone writing about Islam without exception. The campaign did not spare al-Azhar ulema and the worst insults were leveled at the Awqaf minister himself."

Having thoroughly denounced what he sees as a government-blessed press campaign against Islamists, Husayn sees the campaign from an international perspective: "Some may imagine that questioning and attacking Islam is a form of free expression. But what we are faced with today is much more serious than a view expressed in a number of articles or books. We are facing a premeditated and unabashed onslaught by the forces of international arrogance, including Zionism, against the Muslim people. What is being published in Egypt is a mere translation of what is being written abroad. Hundreds of millions of dollars are being spent to finance such writings. We are not facing just a number of deviant individuals but a diabolical foreign scheme that some of our writers, knowingly or unknowingly, are colluding with."

SUDANESE MINISTER INTERVIEWED

A 2,500-word report on an interview with 'Ali 'Uthman Taha, Sudanese Minister of Social Planning, by Qutb al-'Arabi in Khartoum appears on page 8. The date of the interview is not given.

Early in his report, al-'Arabi informs us that the Social Planning Ministry is "a ministry created to carry out the task of social changes based on an Islamic foundation."

The Sudanese minister is cited as saying that the "stability of the domestic regime is no longer in question," that "opposition at home and abroad is weakening," and that "military resistance" is waning.

The minister argues that the Islamic regime is gaining popularity and elaborates on several steps that the government is pondering to fortify the Islamic character of the state. "As for popular response to the Islamic propositions of the Salvation Government, Minister Taha said: The popular movement response to Islamic slogans outstripped the actual political reach. The political regime is still taking gradual steps but various sectors of society, including the general public, social organizations, tribes, intellectuals, and popular figures, are all joining the Islamic trend with a zest hard to accommodate within the framework of the national conference or popular committees. The response is massive, the prospect promising, and the urge strong."

As examples of government efforts to encourage piety, the minister mentions that the cabinet is examining proposals to start the working day with the dawn prayer and to train professionals, such as doctors and engineers, to spread the word of Islam within their professions.

A MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD VERSION OF PLURALISM

A 2,000-word essay entitled "Muslim Brotherhood: A Brief Word on Consultation [shura] in Islam" and signed "the Muslim Brothers" appears on page 13. In a language that is part theology and part modern political jargon, the essay provides the group's view of government. It fails to point out whether this view is a recapitulation or a revision of the group's position and does not clarify whether it is part of any political initiative.

The essay opens with a Koranic verse often cited to indicate the democratic nature of Islam: "Those who hearken to their Lord, and establish regular prayer; who conduct their affairs by mutual consultation; who spend out of what we bestow on them for sustenance." This verse, the essay tells us, means that "the people are the source of powers."

The essay then briefs us on the lives of the early Caliphs, who, it argues, came to power through "selection by the general Muslim public." Since then, the Muslim people have had many rulers, some good and many bad, but "never has the Islamic shari'ah been abandoned, neither as a faith, nor a reference nor a constitution."

Islamic rule, good or bad, only ended with the crusades: "Never has a ruler or an Islamic people adopted a reference other than shari'ah until the Islamic people were visited by the imperialism of the crusaders. The crusaders invaded them, ruled them, and imposed their laws and principles on them. A procession of agents, following on the footsteps of the crusaders, then came to power."

From this, the essay concludes that Muslim rulers should be selected by the people from among the capable and devout: "The people have the right to select, with their good judgment, those whose piety, probity, knowledge, and efficiency are commensurate to the tasks of office."

Also, the state needs to have a constitution based on the Koran. "We believe—although the Koran and the teachings of the prophet are the supreme constitution of Muslims and that whoever or whatever challenges them is wrong—that the nation should have a written constitution. The nation should formulate and agree upon that constitution, which should be inspired by the texts of the lofty shari'ah."

The essay proposes that a parliament is needed to implement the constitution. The constitution, it says, should "contain enough principles and guarantees to protect public and private freedoms of all people—Muslims and non-Muslims alike—and make the government a consultation affair [shura] based on the power of the people. The constitution should define the rulers' responsibility before the people. It should state a way of questioning and correcting the rulers peaceably and successfully if they go wrong and change them if needs be. This requires the presence of a representative council with effective legislative and control powers, a council embodying the true will of the people as expressed through fair and free elections. The resolutions of such a council should be binding."

Having expounded its view on the constitution and the parliament, the Brotherhood's essay proposes limited-term presidency: "We are also of the opinion that—considering that the president of the state is just an elected official—the presidency must be for a limited term and must not be renewed except for a limited period to avoid despotism."

After giving a mix of theological and common-sense arguments, the essay recommends a pluralism that resides within the confines of shari'ah: "We, therefore, believe in the plurality of parties in Islamic society and that the authority need not place restrictions on the formation and activity of political groups or parties. Every group should be left free to advocate its views and expose its method... [ellipsis as published] So long as Islamic shari'ah is the ultimate constitution and the law is applied by an independent and protected judiciary, away from the influence of any authority or side, and so long as the judiciary is intellectually, scientifically, and theologically capable, this should be sufficient to guarantee the probity of society and its commitment to the right path."

The essay concludes: "We also see that the acceptance of the multi-party system in the Islamic society, in the way that we just stated, involves the acceptance of the fact that power may change hands among political groups and parties through periodic elections. May God be blessed first and foremost. God's prayers be upon Prophet Muhammad and his scions and disciples."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Speaks on Occasion of 'Id al-Adha

LD2105182694 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 May 94

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the onset of the blessed 'Id al-Adha, brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] went to the Hammam Lanouf martyrs cemetery in Tunis where he said a prayer for the souls of the martyrs amid a huge gathering of Palestinians cadres.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar delivered a brief speech in which he said: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Dear brother Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Abu al-Hawl, Abu-Muhammad, Abu-Jihad [Brigadier General Muhammad], 'Atif, Abu-'Ali Iyad, Hamad ['Abd-al-Karim], Ghassan Kanafani, Abu al-Walid, Majid Abu-Sharar,

Abu-al-Mundhir; brothers and beloved martyrs. While you rest in you paradise, the members of the Palestinian police force have entered Palestinian soil, the first liberated Palestinian land where the Palestinian flag is flying, and where we are going to set up the first Palestinian authority.

We are very aware of the significance of what we have achieved. We have not achieved everything that we wanted, but this is a step on the path of achieving what we want; a step toward the establishment of a Palestinian state whose capital will be Jerusalem. Some people see this as a long-term goal, but we see it as a short term one; we know we are right.

Once again brother martyrs, I would like to say that the promise that is between us will remain the same. We realize that the road to Jerusalem is a difficult and long one, but we will fly the flag of Palestine, the flag of the Arab nation, on the walls, churches, and mosques of Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

While we bid farewell today to sisterly Tunisia that stood by us and hosted this Palestinian work, this revolution, and leadership, we would like to express to our brother Zine el Abidine, to his hospitable people, and wise government our heartfelt thanks. We say to them we are in this path, the path of the Arab nation. We, the Palestinian people, represent this front, the Arab front on the sacred land, the first of the two qiblahs and the third of the holy places. We are an integral part of our Arab nation, we are an extension of this Arab land and this nation. The Arab columns who today enter Gaza and Jericho will tomorrow enter Nablus, Hebron, Tulkaram, Bethlehem, Ramallah, and every Palestinian territory. We have a date there, brothers.

The international resolution sought to undermine this revolution and the PLO, however, this blessed intifadah managed to put our people on the political map of the region. This result firmly puts our people on the political and geographic map, and consequently on the Middle East map. This baby requires all of us to work for him and with him, so that this baby will be able to grow and mature.

Once again, let met reiterate to you that our promise will remain the same promise and the pledge the same pledge. Let us stand together as one until the liberation of Jerusalem.

Says Gaza-Jericho 'Step' to Independence

JN2205203494 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, and chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO, has reiterated that the Gaza-Jericho agreement, the crossing of Palestinian police into the Gaza and Jericho areas, and the installation of the first national authority there, are not the limit of our ambitions, but steps on the road toward an independent Palestinian state.

In remarks, carried by the Qatari News Agency, during a visit today to the martyrs cemetery in the Hammam al-Shatt District near the Tunisian capital to mark the blessed 'Id al-Adha, 'Arafat said what has been achieved thus far is something like a newborn that needs all the care and attention it can get until it is able to hoist the Palestinian flag over Jerusalem. Our Palestinian people are an integral part of the Arab nation, 'Arafat stated.

Brother Abu-'Ammar thanked the Tunisian Republic for the support it has given to the Palestinian people and cause and for playing host to their leaders.

Al-Tibi Rejects 'Despicable' Distortion of Islam

TA2305095594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 22 May 94

[Telephone interview with Ahmad al-Tibi, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Mikha'el Tuchfeld; place not given—live]

[Text] [Tuchfeld] Today we heard additional comments made by 'Arafat in Johannesburg, this time referring to an agreement Muhammad made with the Quiraish Tribe and later violated. Does this mean that Islam permits people to sign agreements and then, when the circumstances change, to violate them?

[Al-Tibi] What you are saying now and what you have been broadcasting since noon today is totally despicable. You interviewed a self-appointed expert with a political bias, a pseudo-orientalist who has distorted both Islam and the facts, claiming that Muhammad was the one who violated the agreement with the Quiraish Tribe.

I accompanied 'Arafat to Johannesburg. Upon entering the mosque, he was immediately surrounded by radical fundamentalists who charged that he had signed an agreement with Israel while the latter violated it daily by murdering Palestinians, confiscating land, etc. In this mosque, 'Arafat said—and you broadcast his remarks—that if one side violates the agreement, the other side can violate it, as happened in the agreement between Muhammad and the Quiraish. Now, what was this agreement between Muhammad and the Quiraish, which was distorted by that self-appointed orientalist, Moshe Sharon?

[Tuchfeld] A nonbelligerency agreement.

[Al-Tibi] The agreement was called Hudaybah Sulh [reconciliation]. In this agreement, which dictated tough terms to Muhammad, the latter undertook to forgo the pilgrimage to Mecca. He accepted this dictate, and he also agreed not to accept any Quiraish member who wanted to become a Muslim and to send him away. An important clause in the agreement stated that if one side harms a member of the other side, the agreement is

thereby annulled. This clause, incidentally, was inserted at the Quiraish's request. After two years, the Quiraish Tribe massacred the followers of the Prophet Muhammad, thereby violating the agreement. It was the Quiraish Tribe that violated the agreement, as every elementary school student knows. Now you come here and do something totally unacceptable....

[Tuchfeld, interrupting] It is not unacceptable, because Yasir 'Arafat's comments require clarification, and Professor Moshe Sharon is a renowned orientalist. Now, returning to 'Arafat's call for jihad, he later explained it as a religious jihad for peace. Not only Moshe Sharon, however, but other orientalists claim that there is no such thing in Islam.

[Al-Tibi] I will not let this go unanswered. I agree with you that 'Arafat referred to the agreement between Muhammad and the Quiraish, but you were accomplices to an act of distortion. Since noon today, you have been broadcasting that Yasir 'Arafat meant....

[Tuchfeld, interrupting] Now we are giving you the opportunity to clarify what he said, so why do you not use the short time you have to explain things?

[Al-Tibi] Mikha'el, 'Arafat's comments should not have been elucidated by a right-wing orientalist whom you pulled straight out of a Gush Emunim conference. I can sympathize with your sensitivity to the word jihad, because it has a militant connotation for Jews, seeing that Arabs have always used it in this sense. Yasir 'Arafat explained what he meant, but many Israelis did not accept his explanation, while some did. Someone is now trying to make unjustifiable use of this second version of the tape. Incidentally, tapes are a special Israeli political genre which I think we should not exploit in reference to agreements between two nations....

[Tuchfeld, interrupting] Dr. al-Tibi, this is why we are giving you the opportunity to explain 'Arafat's remarks, and what you are claiming is that when one side violates an agreement, the other side is entitled to launch a jihad.

[Al-Tibi] Absolutely not. Nobody said this, and now you are again distorting what was said. Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres themselves said that if Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] comes to power after the elections, the agreement is null and void. Now, if somebody thinks of violating an agreement as a result of political elections, what should be the fate of the agreement in the case of an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] massacre of Palestinians or a Palestinian massacre of Israelis? I think in that case the agreement will be totally worthless. We are dealing here with an agreement that must be honored. Yasir 'Arafat signed this agreement. Perhaps criticism regarding the insensitive use of the jihad concept was justified, but this is not the case concerning the new version and this theater of the absurd which you are all participating in.

'Fabricated' Crisis Over 'Arafat Jihad Remarks Hit

PM2005134694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 May 94 p9

[Editorial: "Rabin Bent on Escalation"]

[Text] Some Israeli circles insist on fabricating a crisis over the Palestinian president's statements despite the calm positive clarification he made.

As the saying goes, "anyone who thinks that a leopard can change his spots is mistaken." Anyone who imagines that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin would willingly agree to a comprehensive peace without receiving the price in the form of applause by the Israeli political hawks, is mistaken.

Rabin yesterday again sought escalation despite Yasir 'Arafat's clarification of what he meant by the call for jihad for Jerusalem. Rabin refused to tone down the false fury, perhaps because he wanted to make the maximum gain of cheap popularity in the hawks camp which is basically opposed to any just peace.

There is no need to recall that Rabin's past positions on such issues as security and the intifadah were closer to the Likud's position than they were to several of his colleagues in the cabinet he now heads, but it is necessary and proper to say a few frank words on the matter.

The Palestinian president may have underestimated the dimensions of the deliberate "political interpretation" of the word jihad in the Western media but he has on all occasions demonstrated full practical commitment to the agreements he signed.

Furthermore, the place where the statement causing the crisis was made was not a place in an area of charged religious sentiments, to warrant its interpretation as an instigative statement.

The parties really interested in defending the peace process, be they Arab, American, or Israeli, have refused to dwell on that fabricated issue, preferring instead to enhance the process by reaffirming the principle of withdrawal, guarantee of security, and clear understanding on future steps toward a just and comprehensive peace.

These parties with positive intentions are aware of the danger of playing with fire for "local consumption" particularly at a time of major blessed Islamic occasions. It would be better for those trying to eschew the phased withdrawal process and the move toward full withdrawal to abandon their dangerous adventure because the alternative would be a return to the bloody option which would spare nobody.

Paper: Jihad Remains Duty While Holy Land Occupied

PM2005142294 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 20 May 94 p 11

[Editorial: "Jihad Duty Binding on All"]

[Text] The Israeli leadership might be able to alter Palestine's geographical boundaries and introduce amendments to its demographic map by absorbing large numbers of emigrants. But this leadership—no matter how powerful materially—cannot change the Palestinian people's beliefs, the foundations of their faith, and their absolute belief in their legitimate rights.

We are reemphasizing these constants because of the clamor provoked by the Yitzhaq Rabin government over a speech Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat delivered during a meeting with South African Muslims in a Johannesburg mosque. In the speech he demanded the Muslims' jihad for the sake of liberating Jerusalem and restoring it as a capital for the Islamic nation as a whole.

Maybe the Palestinian president was forced—under Israeli and U.S. pressures—to offer clarifications which include justifications, not backtrackings. But what applies to him as a politician engaging in a difficult and complicated peace process whose balances are not equal does not necessarily apply to the Palestinian Arab people's sons, who are actually exercising jihad in the occupied territories daily.

When they confront settlers in Hebron and take revenge for their victims within hours in heroic fedayeen operations, it is the highest kind of jihad. When they cling to the land, refuse to bargain over it, and prefer to stay in detention centers rather than pledge to abandon their right to resist, it means that numerous troubles are ahead of Israel if it insists on its repressive policies, refuses to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, and continues its settlement policies.

The jihad remains a duty for every Arab and Muslim as long as the holy land is occupied and as long as al-Aqsa Mosque is shackled. And if the United States succeeded in omitting the "jihad" from the resolutions adopted by the Dakar Islamic summit, it will not succeed in imposing this ban on the peoples after the rulers.

So the Israeli clamor in question reveals the Rabin government's bad intentions with regard to Jerusalem and its future—the fundamental issue which has been deferred to the negotiations of the final phase, which are supposed to begin in three years at the latest.

The Palestinian president was right when he appealed to all Muslims throughout the world to perform their duty to liberate Jerusalem.

Suffice it to say that this people have continued the jihad for 70 years to safeguard the Arab Islamic identity of this old city. They fiercely resisted all temptations to emigration and naturalization and as a result they have lost thousands of martyrs.

All the propaganda festivals held for Jerusalem here and there do not have a fraction of the effect caused by an Iraqi missile fired on Israel. Jerusalem does not need prayers and speeches, but, rather, actions and sacrifices.

It is shameful and suspicious at the same time for us not to hear a single call for jihad for the sake of Jerusalem. And if this call is announced, it tends to emanate from a besieged, suffocated, starved state. As for the Arab and Islamic states that are overstuffed with money, missiles, aircraft, and all types of weapons, they pretend to forget Jerusalem and the people of Jerusalem. They do not want to do anything about it. And if they do, their actions are not in the Palestinian people's interests and do not help to recover their rights in the framework of the simplest possible forms of sympathy and solidarity.

Police Force Reportedly 'Not in Control' in Gaza

TA2005093494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] The Palestinian police force is not in control of the situation in the Gaza Strip and has even ceased trying to handle traffic. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan has learned from Arab sources that armed and unmasked Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members have been roaming around the Gaza Strip undisturbed since yesterday.

Nabil Sha'th, head of the PLO delegation, arrived in the strip from Egypt last night for a 24-hour visit. He is holding talks with Palestinian police commanders and others on the functioning of the police force in the autonomy, as well as on different matters.

Jericho Police Commander on Tasks, Settlers

NC2105071794 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 21 May 94

[Telephone interview with Colonel Haj Isma'il, commander of the Palestinian police forces in Jericho, in Jericho, by Ramadan Husayn, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Husayn] What are the Palestinian police's tasks in Jericho in general, particularly today on 'Id al-Adha?

[Isma'il] [passage omitted] As for the civilian tasks of the police, since they arrived, the police assumed their duties in a normal way in the area. In Jericho, they assumed their full duties to ensure security and safety and maintain order. Things here are proceeding normally and the police are running the affairs according to their program.

[Husayn] You are aware that many settlers reside in the Jericho area and will be subject to Palestinian police

protection. Do you think they might cause any trouble for the Palestinian police forces?

[Isma'il] Since the beginning we have been working hard to avoid trouble with the settlers and with religious people in particular. As you know, they have a small synagogue here in Jericho, and agreements stipulate that religious people can visit the synagogue once a week or at any time they like on the condition that they be unarmed. They still enter the synagogue with their arms and refuse to abide by the agreement, causing trouble and problems for us; and they pass through the city, too. We are trying hard to overcome the problems with the Israeli side through the liaison committee. We are still suffering from this problem because the religious settlers are persisting in these acts in a provocative way.

[Husayn] Regarding Palestinian people visiting Jerusalem, Israel imposes a special system according to which advance permits must be obtained. Does this apply to the Jericho residents, or has the situation changed?

[Isma'il] The Israeli stand on Jericho residents visiting Jerusalem has not changed; we have a problem here. We discussed the matter with the Israeli side but the Israeli stance has not changed. They insist that any one wanting to visit Jerusalem must have a permit, but we told them that Jerusalem is part of the Palestinian land. We will visit Jerusalem soon, God willing, and we are working hard to lift the blockade and rescind the Israelis' measures concerning Jerusalem.

[Husayn] Another question, regarding preparations to receive President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in Jericho, the headquarters of the transitional self-rule authority.

[Isma'il] Here in Jericho we are anxiously waiting for his arrival. All our people in the West bank and Gaza Strip (?look forward) to President Yasir 'Arafat's arrival. We are preparing for his arrival but the date is left for the president to decide on. [passage omitted]

[Husayn] Concerning the supervision of traffic to and from Jericho over the Allenby Bridge and the crossing between Jericho and Gaza Strip, what is the position of the Palestinian police forces?

[Isma'il] The Israeli side is preparing the necessary installations for the three crossings, in accordance with the agreement, and will soon complete building the terminals. After that we will begin to implement all the measures concerning traffic at the crossings according to the provisions of the agreement. [passage omitted]

Security Official on Self-Rule, Opposition's Rights

JN2105203194 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 May 94

[Interview with Jibril al-Rujub, official in charge of Preventive Security in the West Bank, by correspondent Basim Abu-Sumayyah; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Abu-Sumayyah] Mr. Jibril al-Rujub, there is another challenge. This is the Israeli presence, specifically the presence of settlements on Palestinian soil. This constitutes a constant factor for friction. How will you address this issue?

[Al-Rujub] I spoke about intrinsic challenges. But concerning objective challenges, there is certainly the issue of settlements and settlers. I believe that there can be no stability, security, tranquility, and the Palestinian national authority will not be able to impose its national presence in an ethical manner so long as there are settlers and settlements. There is a challenge of another type, that of Jerusalem, the question of East Jerusalem should be settled in a manner that fulfills the minimum level of our aspirations. By this, I mean the withdrawal from East Jerusalem.

[Abu-Sumayyah] Mr. Jibril, since we are speaking about Jerusalem, is there actually a secret Israeli commitment to President 'Arafat on the future of Jerusalem?

[Al-Rujub] I do not know. What I know is that there is a U.S. pledge to continue tackling East Jerusalem as occupied. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Sumayyah] How do you assess the implementation of the agreement on the ground over the past period?

[Al-Rujub] From the Palestinian side, I believe there are some difficulties. However, we should overcome them. We in the PLO are not a major power. We work within our limited resources. In spite of this, we managed to transport our forces. We managed to take over the duties of the police force and to impose a minimum of political respect. I view this as an achievement when compared with the means we have. We must not forget the economic siege the PLO has been experiencing since the Gulf war. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Sumayyah] Are there negotiations for releasing more Palestinian detainees, is there a timetable for this, or what about the question of the detainees in general?

[Al-Rujub] With respect to the detainees, there is a two-point agreement. The first point is to release 5,000 prisoner during a record time, and a committee will be formed from the two sides to discuss the vehicle for releasing the rest. The upshot of this means that all the prisoners and detainees will be released without any consideration to their affiliation, and the reasons for which they were arrested. This is because we in the PLO look at ourselves as negotiators and speakers on behalf of the entire Palestinian people with all their political and social sectors. From this premise, we signed the agreement in the name of all the Palestinian people. That's why we consider that we are responsible for releasing all who have resisted occupation, and those who have exercised their natural right in confronting an illegal occupation of our land. After releasing them and implementing the Palestinian national authority, we will be responsible for making this citizen respect the agreements signed by the Palestinian National Authority, or

try to topple them in a democratic manner through the Palestinian arena. We do not accept, in any way whatsoever, the principle of classification or discrimination by saying this one belongs to this faction and that to another faction. We reject this. We also refuse to consider the reasons that led this or that to be detained as a cause for keeping him there because we have fought, and many of our people were killed and punished by Israel. What is the meaning then that our fighters and strugglers remain in prison while those who fought us and killed us from their side enjoy happiness and freedom?

[Abu-Sumayyah] Will the Palestinian authority allow freedom of expression and the press and the pluralism of parties?

[Al-Rujub] From my position within the PLO as a member of the Palestine National Council, of the PLO's higher military council, and as the official in charge of preventive security and within the limits of my prerogatives and my position as a Palestinian nationalist, I promise that we will give the opposition forces the natural right and the right that is acknowledged by all laws to express their opinion in a civilized, democratic, and ethical manner without physical and verbal violence.

[Abu-Sumayyah] As well as political and press freedom?

[Al-Rujub] The freedom of the press and expression, the right to demonstrate and to criticize, and to hold seminars praising or criticizing the sound or wrong performance of the national authority.

[Abu-Sumayyah] Will there be Palestinian military censorship on the press?

[Al-Rujub] The censorship will not differ from that exercised by the most democratic states in the world. [passage omitted]

Sees Independent State in Future

JN2205174494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 May 94

[Remarks by Jibril al-Rujub, official in charge of Palestinian Preventive Security in the West Bank, in Jericho on 22 May—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] I dare say that the reception my colleagues and I were accorded at the headquarters of the Preventive Security was a virtual plebiscite on the popularity of Fatah, the PLO, and Yasir 'Arafat and his political program. This is a great thing in which I take pride and which encourages me and my colleagues to stick to our political and organizational program. What has been achieved thus far is just one step on the road to the establishment of our independent Palestinian state.

Sha'th Calls For Investigation of Strip Attack

TA2105060594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Speaking in Gaza, Nabil Sha'th said that joint patrols by the Palestinians and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] would begin today. He noted that the main mission of the Palestinian police right now is to launch an investigation into yesterday's attack. We are very concerned, Sha'th said, because the Palestinians are responsible for whatever happens within the autonomous areas. He was speaking with reporters in Gaza after meeting Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq and the head of the Shin Bet.

Joint Patrols Begin in Khan Yunus, Gaza City

TA2105112594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Joint Palestinian-Israeli patrols began operating today in the areas of Khan Yunus and Gaza city. According to the agreement, the patrols will travel on three routes along the Netzarim, Morag, and Qatif Bloc roads.

Each patrol will include two jeeps. A Palestinian officer and three policemen will ride in one vehicle, whereas the other jeep will carry an Israeli Border Police officer and three soldiers.

Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the length of each route five to seven kilometers and the units patrolling it will be responsible for maintaining security in the area. There will also be a joint Palestinian-Israeli foot patrol in the vicinity of the Erez checkpoint and at the entrance to the Gaza Strip.

Fatah Hawks 'Terrorists' Join Security Forces

TA2205142094 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 22 May 94 p 2

[Report by ITIM]

[Text] Seventy Fatah Hawks terrorists were recruited to the Palestinian security forces in the Gaza Strip yesterday.

Of the 70—who constitute the total number of Fatah's terrorists and fugitives—some 30 will be incorporated into the Palestinian police force; approximately 20 will join the security service under Muhammad Dahlan's command, while the rest will join the military force, or will renounce this privilege and become civilians.

A senior Israeli source said the Israeli security forces were unaware of this agreement.

Radio, TV Chief on Killing of Two Israelis

LD2005200394 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 May 94

[Excerpts] The Israeli occupation Army has today decided to prevent the Palestinian citizens in the Gaza Strip from entering the rest of occupied Palestine. [passage omitted]

More details from our correspondent in the occupied territories:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] The first challenge faced by the Israeli-Palestinian agreement has been represented by two armed attacks in the Gaza Strip on Israeli soldiers. [passage omitted]

Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, chief of the Palestinian radio and television authority, commented on the operations by saying:

[Abu 'Ayyash] Naturally, such incidents have a negative affect on the peace process, but they could also be a necessary incentive for putting an end to the occupation and putting an end to these consecutive waves of violence, be it by this or that side. This requires us to work relentlessly and without weariness to achieve a comprehensive and just settlement for the Palestinian people, and security for all the inhabitants of the region.

[Correspondent] [passage omitted] [end recording]

Authority Member Notes 'Obstacles' for Security

JN2205170894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 May 94

[Interview with Furayh Abu-Middayn, member of the Palestinian National Authority, by As'ad 'Attar in Gaza; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-Middayn] There is an agreement in place. We are not negotiating new terms. We are implementing the Cairo agreement. However, the Palestinian police are coming up against obstacles not of their own making, but that originate in the donor nations that made decisions and signed pacts with the Palestinians calling for the police force to be outfitted with all the necessary materiel—cars, communications equipment, and transport. We have yet to take delivery of all the promised cars. Some of the cars that have to be sent to certain locations have no radios. We cannot send a soldier on an assignment without communications. We cannot send a civilian instead of a military vehicle. The donor nations have yet to honor the commitments they have given to the Palestinians. It is the major stumbling block to the Palestinian movement and deployment in the Gaza strip. We are not negotiating new terms. We will implement the agreement in place.

['Attar] But the police have already started their duties.

[Abu-Middayn] Today, joint patrols were in action. The Palestinians maintain a presence in all designated road junctions, where the settlers are allowed to travel under Israeli military escort. The Palestinians are present in all the localities indicated on the maps that were signed in Cairo.

['Attar] Have security checkpoints been set up close to the Erez roadblock?

[Abu-Middayn] There is a Palestinian security checkpoint there. There is one in the Military Police area and on the Gaza coast near Netzarim. The checkpoints shown on the map are now all in place.

['Attar] And what about disarming civilians who still possess firearms?

[Abu-Middayn] It would be more to the point to talk about controlling the use of weapons rather than disarming civilians. Civilians need to apply for a license before they can carry firearms. The acquisition of weapons should be barred if no reasonable, plausible grounds can be advanced by applicants, especially since a considerable number of weapons have found their way into the hands of criminals, who used them in hold-ups and robberies. We are addressing this issue, which we do not take lightly. It is an issue that must be controlled. We will institute a ban on firing in the air as is customary on happy and festive occasions. The security authorities will take care of that. This issue figures high on the list of our priorities. This is because weapons have been alarmingly readily available in the past year.

['Attar] The Israeli-Palestinian committees convened today. Have new security arrangements been worked out?

[Abu-Middayn] Every day brings new developments. But I have not left my office today. God willing, I will have the details this afternoon.

['Attar] Thank you, Attorney Furayh Abu-Middayn.

[Abu-Middayn] Thank you.

'Arafat Receives Message From Christopher

LD2105191494 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Brother President Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, this evening received Mr. John McCarthy, U.S. ambassador to Tunisia.

During the meeting, President 'Arafat received from his excellency the U.S. ambassador an important message from Mr. Warren Christopher, the U.S. secretary of state, pertaining to the incident that led to the killing of two Israeli soldiers in the Arez area at the northern exit of Gaza Sector yesterday morning, and the gravity such incident poses to the peace process.

The message also concerns the invitation of Norway, in its capacity as president of the Liaison Committee of

Donators to hold an urgent meeting on this coming Monday, 23 May, in Washington.

Secretary Christopher stressed in his message the United States' support for this meeting and its success in order to begin the process of development to consolidate peace.

It is worth noting that the aim of the perpetrators was not only to confront the Israelis who withdrew from Gaza two days ago, but also to confront the Palestinian national security and its direct responsibilities in the Gaza Sector and to its population according to the signed agreement.

'Arafat Urges Salih, al-Bid to Overcome Crisis

LD2005173594 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 May 94

[Excerpts] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, yesterday evening made a telephone call to His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemeni Republic.

President 'Arafat asked the Yemeni president to overcome the current Yemeni crisis by brotherly means and to stop the spilling of Yemeni blood, especially on the occasion of the pilgrimage and the blessed feast of 'Id al-Adha. [passage omitted]

The president also made a similar contact with Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, hoping that the current crisis in Yemen will be overcome by brotherly means and stopping the spilling of Arab blood in Yemen during these blessed days. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Receives Phone Call From Salih

LD2205183294 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received a phone call from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih yesterday evening.

The Yemeni president put his brother President 'Arafat in the picture regarding the latest developments of the situation in Yemen and the efforts being made to end the crisis and preserve Yemen's unity.

Fatah Revolutionary Council Issues Statement

LD2005224594 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 May 94

[Statement issued by Fatah's Revoulutionary Council at the end of its 12th ordinary session on 16 and 17 May]

[Excerpts] The national liberation movement, Fatah, since its establishment, has faced great challenges and has consistently overcome them, and is able, through practice and the right political standce to adopt a set of principles and a program which serves the Palestinian people. Our movement revolted against the reality of the 1967 defeat and adopted the slogans of the masses to achieve the goals of the masses in returning and establishing an independent Palestinian state, with Holy Jerusalem as its capital.

It is normal that global difficulties affected the regional situation, which made our march a difficult and bitter one, marked with huge sacrifices. Our march was able to resist because of the huge sacrifices made by the Mujahid people and its struggling forces, despite the fact that its achievements were vulnerable to all means and attempts to dominate and even destroy them.

Therefore, starting from our conviction for a just and comprehensive peace, the movement took part in the peace process approved by the Palestinian National Council, prior to our delegation leaving for Madrid, putting before our eyes the objectives of our Palestinian people and with determination to establish its presence in the midst of these international changes. [sentence as heard]

The accord which was recently signed in Cairo is a natural outcome to the struggle of our people and its heavy sacrifices in the shadow of these accelerating international changes.

The Fatah Movement is confident that our people, wherever they are, will stand in a single rank in the battle of construction and building, the battle of building their independent state as they have always stood during all stages of the national struggle, one consequence of which is what we have achieved on the ground in the homeland.

Therefore, the unity of our people is the genuine guarantee for the success of Palestinian authority and a safe way toward the realization of an independent Palestinian state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Therefore, we in the Fatah Movement call upon the Arab brothers and all friends to stand by us at this fateful moment, to back us in the building of our state as it is a Pan-Arab objective, and to firmly establish a just and comprehensive peace in our area, with all the consequences this will have on the entire Arab situation. We call for mutual assistance and solidarity in order to underpin the joint Arab position in the clash of civilizations in the area.

We in Fatah have waged our sincere and loyal struggle and our solid realistic practices for many years. Throughout the long dialogue with our brothers in the other factions—even before their emergence—it has taken us a long time to convince them of our work and what we are struggling for. We are now facing the political battle and creating a new policy in the area in the shadow of the new international order, the facts and [?settings] of which rule the entire area.

We are confident that our dialogue with all brothers is to clarify positions, facts, and variables, and to teach everyone of their national and Pan-Arab responsibilities,

as we did during the jihad and the armed struggle after the great achievement at the eternal al-Karamah battle, during which the Fatah Movement offered the best of its youth and cadres.

We are facing a new era that is taking shape on the ground and requires every effort and perseverance from everyone. It requires from us—after realization of the beginning of the return with the arrival of the Palestinian security forces in the homeland—the rebuilding of the homeland, the infrastructure, and the creation of work opportunities for our struggling masses.

One of the main points of strength on which we depend is the strength of the starting point—the revolution—its achievements and influence on world opinion, the effectiveness of the blessed Intifadhah, the determination of our Palestinian people inside the occupied homeland and outside to accomplish their national objectives, their adherence to unity and cohesion, and denying the enemies all chances of creating division and conflicts within their ranks, and attempts to create alternatives to their leadership.

These points of strength will themselves firmly establish the Palestinian people on the map of the Middle East and the world. However, this by far falls short of their ambitions or rights and below the requirements of justice. However, it is the beginning from which we start to work toward the elimination of the Zionist occupation of our land and to realize our legitimate rights, according to the resolutions of the United Nations.

The clash between cultures and the competition between civilizations is a legitimate matter, and it is the real test for our relations with Israel. We can score some points in this area.

The world is going through a phase which totally rejects the policy of no peace, no war. We, as a movement, are required to take our people out of the tunnel of the Cold War in order to establish them on the political and geographic map of the region and the world. The phase of moving to a homeland requires a definition of the bases and the concept of this move, and of Fatah's role in the phase which would follow the move to the homeland. It also requires a definition of Fatah's view of the principles and provisions of carrying out national duties in order to build a Palestinian state and a Palestinian society within the history and civilization of the Palestinian people. This course is based on its affiliation spiritually, nationally, and organically to its Arab nation, and on its just rights to a homeland and free choices of its right to return and to self-determination.

The Fatah Movement values the great stand taken by the Egyptian president, Government, and people in supporting the peace process and hosting the talks on its territory. Fatah also appreciates the stand of the brotherly Jordanian king, Government, and people, marked by their persistent support for the Palestinian issues, the latest of which was facilitating the crossing of our forces to our dear land.

Also, the stand of the brothers in the Gulf, at the forefront of whom are the brothers in Saudi Arabia, led by His Majesty King Fahd, custodian of the two holy places, who are transporting our forces from where they are stationed to the homeland. In addition, there is also the stand of the brothers in Algeria, Libya, Sudan, Iraq, Mauritania, Lebanon, and Syria, who are hosting their Palestinian brothers.

We also send salutations to the sincere brotherly stand of fraternal Tunisia and its president Zine El Abidine, Zine El Arab [as heard], its government, and its fraternal people, for providing all requirements of success for the work and activity of the Palestinian Liberation Organization and its institutions, and for its strong support to the Palestinian positions in the peace process. [passage omitted]

We besiege God to guide our steps on the road to building our independent state on our national soil. It is a revolution until victory.

Islamic Jihad, Hamas Assail Self-Rule Authority

JN2105210594 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine has criticized the statement released by the 'Arafat leadership in reaction to the heroic commando attack at the Erez checkpoint in the northern Gaza Strip. The Islamic Jihad Movement's statement called 'Arafat's reaction another example of capitulation to the Zionist will and dictates. The statement regretted that the new authority should have reacted the way it did against an operation carried out by the Jihad Movement, when it cannot bar armed settlers from the self-rule areas. We reject this skewed logic, as do our people, who yesterday were jubilant over the heroic operation.

Our jihad will continue and we will keep our weapons as long as the occupation remains, the Jihad Movement's statement emphasized.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has issued a statement to mark the advent of the blessed 'Id al-Adha. As we celebrate the 'Id, advocates of negotiation and lovers of normalization with the Zionist entity try to convince us that the 27,000 sq. km that is Palestine has now shrunk to 400 sq. km, where they plan to set up an authority to provide for the security of the Zionist settlers and guard the interests of the shabby leadership.

The Hamas statement called for remembering the martyrs, detainees, and wounded, who put their lives on the line for the sake of the homeland. The statement also appealed for help to be extended to the poor among our people, whose ranks have been swollen by the Zionist closure of the occupied territories.

Islamic Jihad Welcomes Israel's Withdrawal From Gaza

LD2205184594 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement for the Liberation of Palestine, the Aqsa detachments, has welcomed Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the handing over of civil administration departments to the National Palestinian Authority.

In a statement issued today, the movement considered the withdrawal as a first step towards confirming our Palestinian people's right to liberation and the establishment of its independent state, with Jerusalem as its capital.

The movement hails the stand of our Palestinian people under the occupation, including all its sections, political forces, and national and social figures, for the welcome and cooperation they have given to the members of the Palestinian police forces, who came to protect them, establish security among them, and work towards the building of their national authority.

The movement holds the Israeli side and its political, military, and security leadership fully responsible for the recent massacre perpetrated by Israeli settlers and Israeli forces on 16 May against our people in Hebron and for the assault against women performing prayers at a mosque in the Bab al-Shaykh quarter.

The movement considers that all military attacks carried out by Palestinian mujahidin against the Israeli army and the armed settlers are caused by the Israeli occupation, the arming of Israeli settlers, and the maintaining of the settlements.

The movement therefore stresses the need to disarm the settlers, dismantle the settlements in the occupied territories, and start negotiations regarding the final phase as a means to prevent the stepping up of conflict and to preserve the peace process.

Rights Group Appeals to Kuwait to Pardon Detainees

LD2005184094 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] The Palestinian Association for Human Rights today appealed to the amir of the State of Kuwait for an immediate pardon to 10 Palestinian students who were sentenced to death by the Kuwait State Security Court on 12 June last year.

The association requests the amir of Kuwait to respond to the appeal of the families and kinfolk of those sentenced to pardon their sons during these holy months and on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

It is worth mentioning that the appeal court will issue its ruling about the sentences against the students on 30 May in response to the appeal submitted by the convicted students.

Egypt

Foreign Ministry on Property Confiscated in Sudan

NC2005151994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 May 94

[Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry issued a statement noting that yesterday at noon, it received a report from the Egyptian embassy in Khartoum saying that Sudanese security forces had expropriated three houses owned by Egyptian military attaches. One was occupied by the assistant air force attache, and the other two by embassy staff.

According to the report, the Sudanese security forces seized the residence of the Egyptian chairman of the joint irrigation authority of the Nile River water, in addition to 30 other residences owned by the Egyptian Irrigation Authority that were occupied by large numbers of Egyptian irrigation mission personnel and their families. The Sudanese security forces prevented these employees and their families from entering their homes.

At the same time, the Foreign Ministry statement adds, the Sudanese security forces expropriated the building of the Egyptian sports club in Khartoum.

In view of these measures, the Foreign Ministry immediately summoned the Sudanese charge d'affairs in Cairo to strongly protest the unacceptable and unjustified conduct which primarily targets Egyptian individuals and families residing in Sudan. [passage omitted]

Envoy Asks Musa To Delay Evacuation

NC2005194094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Khartoum, 20 May (MENA)—Egyptian Ambassador in Khartoum Dr. Hasan Jad-al-Haqq has expressed his sorrow and deep regrets for the Sudanese authority's confiscation of Egyptian-owned homes and the expulsion of the Egyptian employees living in them. He said he hoped this conduct will not lead to undesirable consequences between the two Muslim neighbors.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Khartoum on his reaction to recent developments, Dr. Jad-al-Haqq said he finds no justification for the Sudanese conduct on such holy days.

Dr. Jad-al-Haqq added that he received a telephone call from Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the surprising Sudanese conduct, and the minister hoped things will not go too far.

The ambassador added that he asked Minister Musa to postpone the dispatch of an aircraft to transport Egyptian nationals from Sudan. He requested a chance to see whether his contacts with senior Sudanese officials and key figures, particularly Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, would succeed in solving this crisis, which might ruin relations between the two countries.

Dr. Jad-al-Haqq expressed the hope that the Sudanese will be reasonable and refrain from this conduct, which should never happen in a Muslim or non-Muslim state no matter what.

The ambassador questioned why officials in the Sudanese Government did not follow the traditional procedure of notifying him of their plans in advance.

Paper Sees Arab 'Division' Over Yemen

NC2305075594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 23 May (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has stated the difficulty of the situation in Yemen as well as that of the Arab and international positions regarding the ongoing conflict there. The paper notes that it is hard for the world to adopt a clear-cut position on the latest developments in Yemen before the Arabs themselves do so, particularly following the breakaway of the south.

In its commentary today, the paper points out that intervention in Yemen will be difficult without knowing whether the world community will treat south Yemen as a separate and independent state, which makes it eligible to defend itself, and thus help it do so. The paper notes that the Arab world will have great difficulty defining its stance on the serious crisis in Yemen, although the Arabs' main concern is to end the ferocious fighting in Yemen.

AL-AHRAM adds that it will not be easy for the Arab states to agree on recognizing the new state in Yemen unless this leads to an end to the fighting. But such recognition may lead to an escalation in the fighting in Yemen. The paper concludes by saying that while it has not yet come out into the open, there is division among the Arabs over the current events in Yemen. Again, the paper adds, the Arab world will find itself facing a major crisis and another ill-omened fate.

Fugitive 'Terrorists' Caught in Security Sweep

NC2005170394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Asyut, 20 May (MENA)—Today, in a security sweep in Asyut, Upper Egypt, security forces caught 17 fugitive terrorists whose cases had been recently tried in various areas of Asyut.

The sweep included villages and urban centers in Sadafa and al-Ghana'im and involved over 1,000 soldiers and officers. A total of 25 automatic rifles, 12 semi-automatic rifles, 10 revolvers, 15 local-made pistols, and 876 rounds were seized.

Also, during the sweep, 10 previously convicted for felonies, five for embezzlement, four in narcotics cases, and 10 minors were arrested.

Group Urges Young To Join Anti-Mubarak Jihad

NC2205164694 Paris AFP in English 1601 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, May 22 (AFP)—The outlawed militant Islamic group the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah has urged young people to join the holy war to topple President Husni Mubarak's secular government.

The appeal for jihad, or holy war, was made in a statement distributed after prayers marking Saturday's [21 May] feast of 'Id al-Adha in the southern Egyptian provinces of Bani Suwayf, al-Minya and Asyut. A high police presence in Asyut meant the statement was not as widely distributed.

"You young people of Islam, what are you waiting for to join the march of the jihad, which will never cease," the leaflet asked. "The blood (of Islamists) is still flowing in prisons," it added referring to the death of the "martyr" 'Abd-al-Harith Madani, an Islamic defence lawyer who died in police custody.

Initial autopsy reports said he had died from being tortured, but a later statement from the Interior Ministry said he had suffered an asthma attack.

The al-Jama'ah has waged a two-year campaign to overthrow the government in which nearly 400 people have been killed.

The al-Jama'ah also denounced the Israel-PLO autonomy accord which launched Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho. In another statement it said the accord signed on May 4 in Cairo aimed to "wipe out the Islamic movement and give up the Al-Aqsa Mosque" in Jerusalem, one of the holiest sites in Islam.

The Muslim Brotherhood, tolerated as a religious organisation, also denounced the self-rule deal accusing PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat of giving in while praising the radical Hamas movement, saying "as long as people fight back, there is hope."

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Cancels 'Id Ceremonies Over Yemen

LD2105131794 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 May 94

[Excerpts] In protest against and as a mark of mourning for the secession of South Yemen that was announced last night, the brother leader of the revolution cancelled his decision to lead the 'Id prayers and deliver the sermon for the masses of worshippers who came to perform the 'Id al-Adha prayers. The remaining 'Id ceremonies are also cancelled. [passage omitted]

This announcement came as the Arab masses in Libya and throughout the Arab world were preparing to mark the fourth anniversary of the declaration of unity in brotherly Yemen [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Phones Salih, Mubarak

LD2105175994 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] A telephone contact has taken place between the brother leader of the revolution and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council in fraternal Yemen.

In the telephone conversation the brother leader expressed his deep concern over the events in Yemen and the grave developments of the situation there. Their views agreed on rejecting session and fighting between the brothers in fraternal Yemen.

Another telephone contact has taken place between the brother leader of the revolution and President Husni Mubarak, president of Egypt, during which they exchanged congratulations on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha and expressed deep concern over the events of Yemen. Their views agreed on rejecting session and fighting between the brothers in fraternal Yemen.

Unity Secretary Discusses Yemen With AMU Envoys

LD2205104494 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0300 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity met the AMU [Arab Maghreb Union] ambassadors to the Great Jamahiriyah last night.

The development of the situation in Yemen, the means to preserve Yemeni unity as a pan-Arab gain which should not be abused, the AMU role in preserving Yemeni unity, and the implementation of an initiative of the AMU presidency to resolve the differences between the sons of the one people in brotherly Yemen were discussed.

JANA Editor Comments on Yemen Situation

LD2205211894 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 May 94

[Excerpt] In a commentary on the situation in Yemen, JANA's Arab Affairs editor said that the collapse of the union in Yemen was undoubtedly the work of a reactionary and imperialist conspiracy. It is well known that the reactionary and imperialist forces, with the blatant hostility they harbor for Arab unity, have put a veto on the unity of the Arab nation and any unionist achievement between any two or more Arab countries. Our contemporary history is full of recent living examples, the abortion of the union between Egypt and Syria in

1958, embodied in the Arab united republic. Reactionary and imperialist schemes were behind the collapse of this union after only three years of its foundation. These schemes have also aborted the experience of the Arab-African union between Libya and Morocco; and there they are today carrying out their scheme against Yemen's union and is held responsible for the collapse of this four-year old union. [passage omitted]

JANA Editor Comments on Yemen Situation

LD2205211894 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 May 94

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Yemen

Southern Yemen To Announce Secession From North

Announcement Expected 'Soon'

JN2005192194 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Reliable sources in Aden have said that the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] led by 'Ali Salim al-Bid will announce the establishment of the southern Yemeni state. The sources added that the decision has been made and that the official announcement on the establishment of the state will be made soon.

Independence Declared

NC2105062694 Paris AFP in English 0213 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, May 21 (AFP)—Aden authorities proclaimed early Saturday an independent state in South Yemen, 16 days after becoming embroiled in a civil war with northern government forces.

Announcing the secession from the north after one of the bloodiest days of fighting since the conflict began, the south's leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid said in a televised address: "I proclaim the creation of the Yemeni Democratic Republic as an independent state with its capital in Aden."

The declaration came just a day before the fourth anniversary of the unification of North and South Yemen and hours after the north called a three-day ceasefire.

The two sides, locked in a political crisis since August 1993, have been at war since May 4.

Al-Bid said the decision to break away resulted from attempts by his bitter northern rival, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, to "destroy the south" by means of war, and his refusal to countenance dialogue on the basis of a bilateral reconciliation document signed February 20 in Amman.

He said the new state, which he called on "friendly" countries to recognize in line with international norms, would be governed by the same constitution as that in force in the north.

It would base its legislative system on Islamic Shari'ah law, he added.

He also announced the formation of a Council of National Salvation comprising elected southern deputies, representatives of political parties and religious figures, which will choose a Presidential Council and an interim government, adding that multi-party elections would be held within a year.

Al-Bid, Salih's sacked vice president and the leader of South Yemen prior to unification, said the new state was committed to respecting "political and public freedoms, human rights and freedom of expression and of the press," and would maintain a liberal economic system.

The announcement prompted spontaneous celebratory gunfire throughout the southern port city, correspondents said.

It was also backed early Saturday by 'Abd-al-Rahman Al-Jifri, leader of the opposition Sons of Yemen movement, who told AFP the union "could not continue under (the Sanaa) regime," which had sought to control it "by use of force".

Salih's General People's Congress and Al-Bid's Yemen Socialist Party had formed a fragile governing coalition after April 1993 elections.

The declaration came after a day of bitter fighting amid increasing pressure from Arab leaders for an end to hostilities.

Hours earlier the government in Sanaa called a three-day ceasefire as of Saturday 00:00 a.m. (Friday 2100 GMT), the SABA' news agency said.

Northern leaders presented the truce as offering "a last chance to the (southern) separatists ... to end their rebellion, adhere to the constitution and place their troops under the command of the head of state" in Sanaa.

Earlier in the day Salih seemingly ignored appeals from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasir 'Arafat to lay down arms for the 'Id Al-Adha feast, which starts Saturday.

But in Mukallah, 700 kilometers (450 miles) east of Aden, Al-Bid ruled out any form of surrender and vowed "not to give up a single inch of our territory in the south."

In a radio speech he said Salih was "trying to get his hands on Aden and the oil-rich eastern provinces and we are not going to let him have either Aden or the oil."

A spokesman for the southern forces here said 1,500 northern troops had been killed Friday in the Kharaz region west of Aden while trying to advance on the city.

The death toll, which was not confirmed by the north, was the largest daily loss announced since the fighting broke out.

Earlier Friday northern forces claimed to have made further progress in advancing on Aden.

The southern army had also retaken control of the key Al-'Anad airbase 60 kilometres (35 miles) north of Aden, the spokesman said, although earlier in the day Sanaa said its forces controlled the airbase.

Despite unification in 1990, the north and south have persisted in retaining separate security forces, civil services and bureaucracies.

Salih Rejects South's Action

JN2105070394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0451 GMT 21 May 94

[Speech by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih at the al-Shuhada' Mosque in Sanaa—live]

[Text] Brother citizens, sons of our great Yemeni people, I congratulate you in my own name and on behalf of the brothers in the political leadership, represented by the Presidential Council, the House of Representatives, and the Council of Ministers, on the blessed 'Id al-Adha, and the fourth anniversary of Yemeni unity, which was declared on 22 May 1990.

I send our heartfelt congratulations from al-Shuhada' Mosque in the capital Sanaa to all the sons of our people and to the valiant personnel of the Armed Forces and the security forces while we are receiving two 'ids. The third 'id is the day of victory being achieved while martyrs fall on all military fronts and along all axes in a triumph for the will of our great Yemeni people against the forces of apostasy and secession.

At a late hour last night, we received the news, which we do not find strange, that the traitor, rebel, and deviant 'Ali Salim al-Bid has declared secession. He declared this in his own name, and forged facts by saying this was also in the name of the parliamentary bloc of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], the Democratic Republic of Yemen. He returned to the hateful past before 22 May 1990. He claimed he was for unity, and that the YSP is a unionist party, and that it will continue to be a unionist party. We know full well that they have nothing to do with unity. They sought unity unwillingly after the collapse of the socialist bloc, and after realizing that the sons of the eastern and southern governorates were suffering as a result of tyrannical totalitarian rule for 25 years, deteriorating conditions, the continuous power struggle, and the massacres that took place. I can recall that in 1981, when I went to Aden, when I also visited the Hadhramaut Governorate, fighting was at its peak in all the Republic's governorates, particularly in the central areas. I left here, Sanaa, for Aden, to ask the then leadership to restore Yemeni unity. At that time, 'Ali Salim al-Bid was in Hadhramaut. He was dismissed from the YSP leadership, its political bureau, the central committee, and the Yemeni people's presidium, as a result of his violation of the [word indistinct] law. We held talks in Hadhramaut, in the Saywun District. He said: Why have you come, brother president? I told him we came to request the restoration of Yemen's unity. He was the same man who came to receive us. He said: We cannot accept unity. You are a regime. We are another regime. You are a state. We are another state. We said we are one people who have the same language and who embrace the same Islamic religion. There are no sects or minorities in our Yemeni society. This is something I know about that retarded secessionist 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

When unity came and the Yemeni Republic was proclaimed and its flag was hoisted all over Yemen, and they were about to fall after the Socialist bloc collapsed, we signed the unity agreement and shared power with them. They took fifty percent of all basic components of power. We said this was the price of unity. We really shared power with them. The homeland started to suffer from this clique during the presence of the Socialist party in power. The party did not come to unity of its own volition. We are very well aware how they came to unity.

From the day it took power in the capital, Sanaa, this party began to weave one plot after another in the capital. It did not come to participate in and uphold its national responsibilities to build the state of law and order. It began its new plot by instigating parochialism, sectarianism, tribalism, and racism among the sons of Yemen, having stifled the voices of the good men, the strugglers and the revolutionaries in the southern and eastern governorates, and after bloody liquidations throughout the rule of that Socialist Party. It wiped out scientists, shaykhs, social figures, political and cultural figures. We know this very well. Our people are well-aware who the Socialist Party destroyed. There were mass graveyards.

The party arrived in the north, but our brothers in the north did not know the extent of the deception and treachery of the renegade leadership of the Socialist Party. They said they wanted to establish the state of law and order, that they had a civilized plan. The civilized plan began by sabotaging the national economy, plundering the nation's wealth on all levels, and destroying establishments with the hammer of Engineer Haydar al-'Attas, chairman of the Council of Ministers in the Yemeni Republic. This economic and financial destruction began. They used people's wealth and property for their own purposes. The people were witnessing and hearing. The people thought that, well, they may be indigent, let them take some money and be satisfied, and then begin construction. But they intended to destroy the national economy and spread corruption and anarchy in all state organizations. They disturbed security and displayed armed presence which disturbed every citizens. They said that they wanted a state of law and order.

You are aware that the highest-level leaderships have only 2 to 3 guards, perhaps up to ten. Being exponents of a civilized plan, they wanted to end the armed manifestations. But, you always found that each member of the party leadership—at least 15 individuals—had from 100 to 150 armed men and from one to four vehicles, with armed men opening the doors of their vehicles, disturbing citizens, and driving with unbelievable speed in the streets. This is the civilized plan under the Socialist Party leadership.

How did the crisis begin and why? While we were performing 'Id al-Adha prayers in al-Jabbanah on this day last year, the so-called al-Bid arrived. He was in an abnormal situation. Why? Because he did not attend or participate, along with the chairman of the presidential council, in the new government's swearing-in ceremony,

the coalition government of the General People's Congress, the Reform Grouping, and the Socialist Party the previous evening. The people wondered why al-Bid had begun to fabricate the crisis. He said nobody invited him to the oath ceremony. The Constitution of the Republic of Yemen says the government shall take the constitutional oath in front of the chairman of the presidential council. During that period, he was not treated like the second-in-command or a presidential council member; we actually treated him as another undeclared president. Plotting began then. He began his suspect contacts to fragment and destroy the homeland..

They destroyed the southern part of the homeland and the eastern governorates, as part of a scheme to destroy all the gains we managed to achieve in the northern governorates, by inciting all sectarian and regional feelings whenever possible. This was best proven by the weapons and hardware the security organizations seized in various parts of the Republic, including Sanaa. Weapons were stockpiled in more than 20 ladies' beauty salons, with the aim of destroying the capital. These included RPG's, mines, TNT bombs, and rockets. This is the cultural project of the Socialist Party leadership. The Socialist Party continued this policy and escalated the crisis day after day.

The dialogue committee was formed. We gave him more than 75 percent of this committee's political speech for his cultural project. This document was signed in Amman as requested by the Socialist Party. I spoke to many brother politicians following 'Ali Salim al-Bid's return to Aden. I told them this is an undeclared secession. Al-Bid's return to Aden was part of an undeclared secession plan.

Many politicians from the various political organizations and parties and a large number of Yemeni Socialist Party members said this party was established and brought up to be unionist and can never be secessionist; it is a unionist party. We told them undeclared secession is being practiced on the ground. Actually, he practiced and escalated one crisis after another. He sought not only to fragment the country into two parts, but to fragment Yemen into several countries. 'Ali Salim al-Bid's speeches returned through the news media to address the Yemeni people. This is 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

Late last night, he declared the name of the Democratic Republic of Yemen. Who gave him this right? What is its legality? This decision has no legality at all. This is an invalid decision made by a sick person suffering from schizophrenia. This decision is null and void. It was based mostly on the claim that most of the members of the parliamentary bloc of the southeastern governorates are in the capital, Sanaa. We, as well as our Armed Forces and Yemeni people, will never accept this secessionist decision and we will offer sons, our brothers, friends, and comrades-in-arms as martyrs, not for the sake of triumphing over the Socialist Party, but for the sake of triumphing for the will of this nation and preserving Yemeni unity. Politically, we will offer all we can on both the national and international levels to avert the continuation of war.

However, we announced a cease-fire at midnight to give the misguided ones of the Socialist Party leadership the opportunity to join constitutional legitimacy.

On this religious occasion and the national occasion we will celebrate tomorrow, that is, the fourth anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Yemen, I repeat today that this anniversary and this unity will continue, God willing, regardless of price and circumstances. Our future policy will focus on removing the traces of financial and administrative abuse, corruption, and what we inherited from the behavior of the secessionist YSP leadership. We will rebuild and restructure the state on modern and developed bases. We will move in the direction of comprehensive development and toward the completion of the basic development structures and expansion of public services. Development has been frozen since the advent of Haydar al-'Attas and his assumption of the post of prime minister. He did nothing but loot the state budget. Every minister and official among them came only to loot all that existed in ministries and institutions. They did so deliberately in order to destroy institutions and the state's pillars. They wanted to destroy everything accomplished in the north so the situation would be similar to what they had done in the southern and eastern governorates.

The southern and eastern governorates were looking forward with hope and confidence to the Republic of Yemen, the state of unity, to security and stability, and to fulfilling the needs of their regions. However, the YSP leadership deliberately froze everything so the citizen or [word indistinct] can rise. This was done deliberately by the YSP leadership.

'Ali Salim withdrew. If he were a brave leader he would be in the beloved capital, Aden, and hold out before fighters. He, however, withdrew like a coward to Hadhramaut. He thinks he is the guardian of the southern and eastern governorates. I know what he means by his withdrawal to Hadhramaut. He does not want the south, but wants to establish the great Hadhramaut state. He thinks he is the guardian of Hadhramaut. Hadhramaut is more unionist than the sons of the capital, Sanaa. Hadhramaut is unionist down to the bone. Hadhramaut will not accept the trusteeship of the YSP and 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

The southern and eastern governorates are not with the YSP leadership. They, however, used to be under the iron fist of the YSP, which it practiced through strong administration and army and security forces, and not through good manners, integrity, and sacrifices for this nation. All it is offering them is devastation and destruction. By this announcement, the YSP thinks it will get their support. It will only get a loud cry from all unionists in the Yemeni homeland and unionists in the Arab and

Islamic world that this is treason. What al-Bid did yesterday evening was greater than any other treason.

The Middle East Broadcasting Center [MBC] radio broadcast the news report before it was declared by 'Ali Salim al-Bid, as if it took the news report from 'Ali Salim al-Bid's pocket. It is an agreed upon and prearranged issue. The MBC radio carried the report before 'Ali Salim al-Bid said he would announce secession. He believes secession is legitimate and that it will be implemented. We will continue with our decision. We will not disavow it, that is, the 72-hour cease-fire. After 72 hours, if al-Bid does not surrender and hand himself over to the nearest police station to face a just trial, fighting and shelling will continue against the secessionist elements supporting al-Bid and his gang, but not against the masses of our people in the eastern and southern governorates, for these are our sons, brothers, and children. We have no differences with any citizen. The existing war is not a war between north and south, but a war between the Yemeni Arab and Muslim people and an apostate, deviationist clique in the YSP leadership.

We would like to correct some concepts by some brothers in the Arab homeland. Regrettably, some biased news media describe the fighting raging as a war between the north and the south. It is a war between the one, united Yemeni people and a gang in the YSP leadership. The war will continue until victory, God willing, and until our Yemeni homeland is purged of this wicked gang.

'Ali Salim al-Bid and some YSP leaders believe the bloodshed is for secession. No, this blood is shed for the sake of entrenching and strengthening unity. Blood is not being shed to split Yemen, but to safeguard unity and to deepen its roots.

Dear free citizens, inside and outside the homeland: We must stand as one rank to support the heroic fighters and mujahidin on all axes, who are fighting on a 1,100-km long front, and who sacrifice their lives for the sake of security, stability, and prosperity, not for the sake of a party or parties, one person, or individual, or sides. At the same time, the misguided ones do not know who they are sacrificing their lives for. They are sacrificing their lives for the sake of a small gang in the YSP.

We are cerebrating the fourth anniversary of Yemeni unity. Our political program will be completely different from the previous program in which we were partners with the YSP, and through which we used to flatter some YSP leaders. We will restore tranquility to Yemeni society, entrench stability and security, achieve comprehensive and integrated development, and promote our country's relations with our neighbors, with the Arab world, and with the foreign world, within the framework of mutual interest and noninterference in our internal affairs and our political decision. This is because the YSP, since it was established, has been accustomed to being in someone else's arms. Some of the the YSP leaders were in the arms of British intelligence. They were raised on this. They were established by British intelligence. After Britain left south Yemen, the south of the homeland, the YSP moved into the arms of Soviet intelligence. Now, it is looking for another intelligence agency because it cannot live outside the arms of intelligence. It has no national decision at all. This is the YSP, the advocate of the civilized project, particularly the advocate of the state of law and order.

Congratulations to the masses of our people on these two occasions; the religious occasion, and the unity day occasion. Heartfelt congratulations to you and to the heroic mujahidin fighters on every mountain and plain.

To the heroes of the Armed Forces and Security, I say be confident that unity will survive. I wish you success and congratulate you on two national occasions, the national day and the 'Id al-Adha.

May God's peace and blessing be upon you.

Salih Holds News Conference

JN2105144794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1247 GMT 21 May 94

[News conference by Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih with domestic and international correspondents and an unidentified moderator in Sanaa on 21 May—recorded]

[Text] [Salih] First of all I would like to welcome the national, Arab, and international press. On behalf of the Yemeni people, we congratulate you on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha and the fourth anniversary of the Yemeni Republic. These days, our country is living through a regrettable war launched by certain separatist elements, led by the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] headed by traitor 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who returned to the black history before 22 May 1990 when he announced late last night the official secession from the Yemeni body. He announced secession for his personal objectives and for the objectives of certain influential elements in the party. We would like to reassure our people, the good people and unionists in the world, and the masses of our Arab nation that unity continues and exists, and is backed by wide popular support all over united Yemen. Separation [word indistinct] only concerns individuals and a clique that includes certain elements in the YSP leadership. I welcome the press and the news agencies again, and I am ready to answer all questions.

[Sulayman Nimr, AL-HAYAH and BBC] Your Excellency the President, now after 'Ali Salim al-Bid and the YSP have announced their separation from the united Yemen, does this mean that the cease-fire will end? Will this mean that you will continue the battle to end the current situation in Aden?

[Salih] Yesterday we announced a decision by the presidential council, the speakership of the House of Representatives, and the council of ministers—in response to

the demand of the unionist elements within the YSP and Arab and international efforts to end the war—to provide a chance for the rebels, led by the party, to surrender themselves to justice and to give a chance for those who were deceived in the Armed Forces and who were left under the authority of the YSP to return to legitimacy and to the army of unity, the army of unity and democracy, the army of the constitutional legitimacy. We issued this decree to cease fire for 72 hours, three days, in order to give them a chance. This decision was met with support from our brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the United States. However, YSP-led separatist elements did not respond to this decision and they continued the war on various fronts. This decision or decree stated that if those who hold sway over the YSP do not stop, the response will be firm. They did not stop. Regrettably, the battles continue.

[Unidentified correspondent] Your Excellency the President: The entire Arab world is one body and Yemen is a part of it. President Husni Mubarak held numerous unpublicized contacts to close Arab ranks. [Words indistinct] Egypt's role and what is expected from it?

[Salih] Egypt is exerting itself and Brother President Mubarak urged the parties to cease fighting. We responded to the cease-fire call. The leadership held [word indistinct] and made a decision. We cannot do without Egypt's role; We have a soft spot for Egypt. Egypt has exerted itself to bring an end to the hostilities.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct] Yemeni masses for civilian life to continue, and democracy, and political pluralism? [words indistinct] Yemeni expatriates around the world about what is actually happening in Yemen, and what is the future of Yemen [words indistinct]?

[Salih] First of all, the bulk of the Republic's territory is under the control of the army of constitutional legality, even the areas where the military has no presence are absolutely committed to Yemeni unity. We reassure our people, our Arab masses, and expatriates that, God willing, the secessionists will be defeated or arrested and brought to justice. They may seek to flee the country.

Yemen will see an extensive development program following the frustrations experienced by the Yemeni people in the southern and eastern governorates while under the control of the YSP when they and ourselves shared power after the proclamation of the Republic of Yemen. Then, instability, insecurity and lax bureaucracy and financial and administrative corruption were the order of the day. That was a deliberate policy on the part of the secessionist YSP leadership. The future of Yemen, God willing, promises to be one of security, stability, democracy, political party pluralism, and modern institutions. God willing, local government will be improved and there will be a greater degree of decentralization—financial and administrative. Local governments will enjoy greater and wider powers throughout Yemen.

[Unidentified correspondent] Many happy returns of the 'Id. I would like to begin by saying that, despite the political leadership's high credibility and the fact that news correspondents have been given the liberty to move directly to the field of action, reports carried by some agencies and radio stations do not reflect what is taking place in the Yemeni arena. [Words indistinct] credibility. What would Your Excellency the President like to tell these correspondents so that they will measure up to the trust placed in them by the political leadership that has allowed them freedom of movement? The second part of my question: We are not surprised by the secession. The secession was declared on the very day the merger was proclaimed. Evidence is found in the stockpiles of [word indistinct] divisionist weapons. This is not strange, coming from the gang ,that plotted secession from day one. But what is the link between the timing of the official declaration of secession and the remarkable successes scored by our Armed Forces, the forces of constitutional legality? Thank you, Your Excellency the President.

[Salih] Thank you. I mean [word indistinct] the beginning of the question. First, with regard to the world news agencies, press, and television stations, as well as the Arab and foreign television stations, we in fact regret the biased role played by some papers, news agencies, and television stations.

Perhaps, some foreign television stations take reports from some Arab television stations and newspapers, so the former stations did not follow up on the facts themselves in order to find out the actual situation. We, however, do not pay attention to certain distortions of positions and to the lack of credibility by some media. We pay attention to what takes place on the ground. We do not pay attention to what is said by certain radio stations, journalists, or television stations. We pay attention to our presence on the ground, to tightly controlling the Republic's territory, and to repulsing and expelling the secessionist elements.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency the President: The second part of the question is: What is the link between timing the official declaration of secession [word indistinct] moments, and [word indistinct] the great victories achieved by our Armed Forces, which are defending unity and legitimacy?

[Salih] The link is that victories were achieved on the ground. Thus, there was no room for al-Bid and the secessionists' clique but to officially declare secession because al-Bid is unable to confront the army of the people, unity, and legitimacy. He has officially declared secession at a time when he has actually seceded, but in an undeclared manner, since he returned from Washington to Aden. We, however, were not surprised by this issue because he had seceded in the first place. Moreover, he unwillingly joined unity, and he did not like unity. Representative of the YSP, al-Bid's political rhetoric said that it is the party of unionists. He, however,

lost credibility regarding his party, himself, his homeland, and the Arab and foreign world.

They say that the YSP was established on unionist bases. How could this be true now that secession has been declared? Thus, where is this credibility?

[Unidentified moderator] May we give an opportunity to non-Arabs, please?

[Salih] Go ahead.

[Moderator in English] Come, non-Arabic speaking correspondents.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] We already have indications that some Arab countries, and perhaps others as well, are prepared to give support to the declaration of independence by Mr. al-Bid. How worried are you about this, and what effect will it have on your objection so far to any form of negotiations [words indistinct] with Mr. (?al-Bid)?

[Salih] First of all, any Arab country or any friendly state that attempts to sympathize with this secessionist decision will be counted in the camp of the enemies of the people of Yemen. This is also considered flagrant interference in Yemeni affairs.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] [words indistinct] So, after this truce, which will last for three days or so, do you intend to go only to Aden, to take over Aden or [words indistinct]

[Salih] We are now tightening the ring around Aden, the economic and commercial capital. After tightening the ring around Aden, our intention was not to enter the capital with the Army. But with 'Ali Salim al-Bid's announcement of secession and declaration that Aden is the capital of his party, we will have to enter Aden by any means necessary. Afterward, the Army will chase the remainder of the party's leadership in al-Mukalla. Thus, al-Bid will have to flee either to Oman or to (?al-Sharawrah) toward Saudi Arabia to join his secessionist colleagues living abroad. In fact, he and his colleagues have sent their children and families abroad as well as the fortunes they have accumulated from here and abroad. He will be forced to go after the funds he has deposited in banks abroad, funds he received as price for the crisis, and with which he ignited the war. He will run after the funds he managed to amass during this period. He has no cause, and if he did have a cause, he would have stood fast in Aden and would not have left Aden. As he left Aden for al-Mukalla, so will he leave al-Mukalla for outside Yemen.

[Unidentified correspondent] President Mubarak [word indistinct] the cease-fire during the 'Id. You responded to this. Al-Bid announced that he accepts the cease-fire but after that he announced secession?

[Salih] [Words indistinct] cease-fire announcement [words indistinct] but immediately after the cease-fire announcement, he proclaimed the secession.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, [words indistinct] 'Ali Salim al-Bid [words indistinct]

[Salih] For the second time, any recognition of this means that this country will be the direct enemy of the Yemeni people.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] In light of the declaration of the separatist state, do you intend to continue the war in the next three days [words indistinct]?

[Salih] We said [words indistinct] cease-fire but the [words indistinct] did not stop fighting. This [words indistinct] forces us to pursue military operations. [words indistinct] for the information of the press, several of the units loyal to the YSP announced [word indistinct] yesterday after the secession decision [words indistinct] announced their loyalty to legitimacy. This was the ('Affan) Brigade, one of the most important brigades, the [word indistinct] Brigade, the Hunayshan Brigade, and the [word indistinct] Brigade announced their allegiance to legitimacy.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct] regarding other political reactions [words indistinct] the YSP members [words indistinct]. What is their stand on the [words indistinct]?

[Salih] [Words indistinct] in the Yemeni arena, they condemned this decision. We demand condemnation [words indistinct]. They have conveyed to us their condemnation over the phone. Other parties [words indistinct] should condemn this secessionist decision through the press and electronic media. Most YSP leaders in Yemen, not only in the north, but in Yemen as a whole, support unity. Most of them have made their stands known. Perhaps statements will be issued by the YSP organizations in some governorates of the Republic. Some YSP leaders have submitted their resignations en masse. I have received their party cards and resignation letters from various governorates of the Republic. [words indistinct] this excellent unionist stand. Only 'Ali Salim al-Bid and those who stand to benefit from this situation among the leaders of the YSP have remained. Eventually, he will be left alone.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] [Words indistinct] much longer [words indistinct]?

[Salih] This is up to the commanders in the field to decide. Our hope is that the battle will be decided within hours or days. However, we are facing the YSP war machine that once belonged to a member of the socialist bloc. After the declaration of the republic, particularly after the beginning of the crisis nine months ago, the YSP received double the quantity of the weapons that it inherited from the socialist bloc. We are facing difficulty, but we have taken approximately 80 percent of their equipment. This includes what has been hit, surrendered, or seized. During the past 12 hours, we have received information that a number of strategic Tupolev planes are transporting a cargo at the al-Riyan airport in

Hadhramaut, (?each carrying two tanks). There is also a vessel carrying a number of vehicles, ammunition, artillery, and tanks to the al-Mukalla port. From this premise, we warn all countries involved in this affair and that seek to prolong this battle. We warn against weapons sales, and the arrival of vessels to ports that fall under the control of the party, and aircraft that pass through Yemeni airspace, we warn against their arrival, and this will be viewed as blatant interference. This will prolong the battle. We warn all the friendly and fraternal countries against becoming involved in this matter to support this secessionist party as this will be viewed as blatant interference in Yemeni affairs.

[Unidentified correspondent] What role are regional countries playing in the Yemeni crisis?

[Salih] [Words indistinct] weapons from arms dealers. Arms sales are funded by the YSP, which has large amounts of money. Thanks again to the press and newsmen. Many happy returns.

Radio Notes Independence

LD2105082594 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party's Political Bureau, has proclaimed the declaration of the Yemeni Democratic Republic on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha feast. On this great occasion, the brother secretary general stressed that Yemeni unity was the goal throughout past periods in order to achieve security, stability, and social progress and to preserve the dignity of the Yemeni people. With sincere and [word indistinct] will to [word indistinct] this life, we worked to establish this unity and we proclaimed unity on 22 May 1990 between the two Yemeni states [words indistinct] and to tackle the deep problems, which our Yemeni people were experiencing in all sectors. [passage indistinct]

Russia Reportedly Recognizes South

NC2105100094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 21 May 94

[Excerpt] Sanaa, 21 May (MENA)—Yemeni Planning Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani said in Sanaa today that the Russian Federation Republic has recognized the Yemeni Democratic Republic. [passage omitted]

Al-Iryani Denies Russian Action

NC2105152094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, 21 May (MENA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni minister of planning and development, has denied that Russia has recognized the Yemeni Democratic Republic, saying that apparently there has been a misunderstanding.

Envoy Comments

JN2105190694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1745 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah this morning received his excellency the Russian Federation's ambassador. The ambassador stressed that the Russian Federation has supported Yemeni unity since its proclamation, for it embodies the ambitions of all Yemeni political and social forces and translates their aspirations for consolidating democratic values and (?professional) liberties. He said that the Russian Federation believed and continues to believe that constructive dialogue and political advancement within the framework of political pluralism is the ideal approach for bolstering Yemen's sovereignty and its international reputation. He said this approach is the best solution to all social and economic problems facing Yemen. He said that not on any level has Moscow considered the possibility of recognizing the new state in southern Yemen.

Russian Envoy Meets Salih

JN2305053294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, received at his office yesterday evening Igor [word indistinct], ambassador of the Russian Federation. The ambassador conveyed to the brother chairman a message from the Russian leadership on the current developments in our country, bilateral friendly relations, as well as issues of common concern.

During the meeting, the Russian ambassador reiterated the Russian Federation's constant position in support of Yemen's unity and stability.

Reaction to Al-Bid Secession Call Noted

Unionist Grouping Condemns Move

JN2105193694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] The Yemeni Unionist Grouping Party has announced its rejection of the criminal al-Bid's proclamation of secession, calling it a catastrophe for the homeland. Brother 'Umar al-Jawi, secretary general of the party, in a statement carried by AFP, termed al-Bid's secessionist decision a dangerous and catastrophic move.

Meanwhile, the Democratic Nasirite Party, the National Democratic Front, and the Socialist Nationalist Party, today came out strongly against the traitor al-Bid's declaration of secession. They emphasized that a rabid, bloody gang within the ranks of the Socialist Party afflicted with megalomania has no business determining the fate of the Yemeni people. They described this gang as a spiteful group with a black history of scheming against our people.

A joint statement issued by the three parties today said they, along with all the worthy and good Yemeni citizens, stand for keeping the Yemeni unity intact and take the side of its defenders. They place themselves, the statement added, at the disposal of the unionist leadership to defend the gains of the homeland—unity and democracy.

Yemeni unity was made possible by the will of the entire people of the country and their sacrifices and struggles. The statement said the people will adhere to their unity for all time and urged all the honest and good forces to chase the secessionist gang and keep it from realizing a separatist scheme funded from across the border—not even on a single inch of Yemeni territory. The three parties called on unionists and good citizens to give every support to the unionist leadership to safeguard this splendid, historic achievement.

Meanwhile, the three parties have cabled the brother chairman and members of the Presidential Council about their strong condemnation of al-Bid's secessionist move. Along with all our Yemeni people, the cable read, we are on your side as a symbol of unity and democracy and national sovereignty and legality.

Radio Urges Recognition

LD2105193594 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1815 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Djibouti, 21 May—Radio Aden has broadcast a communique in which it called on countries of the world to recognize the republic declared in south Yemen today.

The communique included a call to sisterly and friendly states to recognize this republic declared by the secretary-general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, early today.

The radio, which is heard here, reiterated the announcement by al-Bid of the establishment of a provisional assembly for national salvation composed of 111 members which will undertake the task of selecting a chairman for the assembly, the chairman and the members of the presidential council, the formation of a provisional government and the declaration of the democratic republic of Yemen and the drawing of a permanent constitution for the country in accordance with the Document of Pledge and accord.

The radio said that the representatives of the people in the republic announced today that they will hold their meetings tomorrow, Sunday 22 May, at the headquarters of the house of representatives in Aden.

The secession communique announced by al-Bid noted that Aden would be the capital of the new republic whose religion would be Islam and in which the sole source of legislation would be Islamic shari'ah. The communique said that the new republic would be a part of the Arab Muslim nation, its political system would be based on political pluralism, and its constitution would be the same as the constitution of the Republic of Yemen. [passage omitted]

3 'Leading' YSP Members Comment

JN2205185994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 May 94

["Text" of statement issued by members of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee; place and date not given]

[Text] Several leaders of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee have issued a statement condemning the declaration of secession made by traitor al-Bid and stressing that this declaration is a retreat from our people's greatest and most important options of unity, democracy, and party and political pluralism. Following is the text of the statement:

We, along with our people, were surprised by the declaration of secession made by the secessionist elements in the YSP leadership. We, along with our people, realize that the YSP's elements, cadres, and many of its leaders reject, absolutely and in principle, this declaration, which does not express our party's spirit, principles, and lengthy struggle designed to effect both the September and October Yemeni revolutions and the Yemeni unity on great 22 May 1990.

The declaration of secession is a retreat from our people's greatest and most important options of unity, democracy, and party and political pluralism. We, as leading elements in the YSP and its Central Committee, condemn the declaration of secession. We also believe that abidance by the constitution and a return to dialogue are the only possible means to end the impasse facing our people as a result of the declaration of secession.

As leading elements in the YSP, we will hold further consultations with our party colleagues in order to take a final and decisive position on our relationship with the YSP.

This statement was signed by brothers 'Abd-al-Bari Tahir, 'Abdallah Hamid al-'Ulufi, and 'Abdallah Baydar, members of the YSP Central Committee.

Other Parties Condemn Secession

JN2205192694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] The Executive Committee of the League of the Sons of Yemen Party has stated its commitment to all national constants—national unity, democracy, and constitutional legality.

In a statement released today, the committee called the traitor al-Bid's declaration of secession a step without any basis in legality. In this move, al-Bid only speaks for himself and his renegade circle, which includes certain

leaders of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]. The traitor al-Bid's measures are illegal, and the actions taken by him and his coterie amount to national treason, the statement added.

'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri [member of the League of the Sons of the Yemen Party who has allied himself with al-Bid] has brought about his dismissal from the party, having turned his back on the party's principles, rules, and bylaws. The statement emphasized that whoever fails to safeguard his citizenship in our united Yemen forfeits his membership in the League of the Sons of Yemen Party. The statement called on the party leaders and rank and file in all the Republic of Yemen's governorates to abide by the letter and spirit of the party's bylaws and to implement its executive committee instructions.

Meanwhile, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Nasirite Popular Unionist Organization, the Yemeni Unionist Grouping Party, the Right Party, the Democratic Nasirite Party, the National Democratic Front, the Social Nationalist Party, the Leading Committee of the Fattah Corrective Stream inside the YSP, the Yemeni Socialist Party faction in the (?al-Maqwin) Governorate, the secretariat of the YSP in the Ibb Governorate, the Yemeni Human Rights Organization, the Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity, and the Disabled Society, have all denounced this criminal move on the part of the traitor al-Bid. They emphasized that this proclamation runs counter to the will of the people. They appealed to national public opinion and regional and world organizations to work to expose the plans seeking to discredit the homeland. They made plain that, far from mirroring the will of the YSP's rank and file, the decision only represents the secessionist gang led by al-Bid.

They emphasized that this secessionist step is illegal and that it violates the Republic of Yemen's Constitution on which the entire people of Yemen are agreed. They urged all popular forces to put up vigorous resistance to this band in the interest of safeguarding the homeland's unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

The statement warned that any recognition of the secessionist regime by any country would amount to interference in the Republic of Yemen's domestic affairs and a blatant violation of international law.

Yemeni Renaissance Assails Move

JN2205195894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] The Yemeni Renaissance Movement has declared its categorical and vigorous rejection of the historical crime of secession committed by the secessionist gang in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]. The movement called the move high treason against God, the homeland, and the people.

In a statement it issued today, the Renaissance Movement emphasized that it supports the legal leadership as it defends Yemen's unity, and urged the unionists inside the YSP—the top and lower echelons alike—to speak out against this step and join a national effort to thwart that evil plan.

Wrapup of Reports on Clashes, Military Operations

North Denies Surrender of 1,500 Troops

JN2005200294 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, May 20 (GNA)—A Yemeni official source has denied reports from Aden saying that 1500 government soldiers had surrendered to secessionists in Karish fighting front.

The source said in statements aired by the Yemeni news Agency SABA' that there was no fighting in Karish area and that the fighting was raging in al-'Alam area, 20 km from Aden and near 'Ataq, provincial capital of Shabwah.

The source reiterated that "al-'Anad base was in full control of government forces and that many of its troops had surrendered and some fled towards al-Hawtah, capital of Lahij Province."

South Yemeni television recently broadcast some pictures showing their forces control of al-'Anad base.

The source said "some targets in Aden, including its air base had become in reach of government forces shells and rockets.

The source said, "government forces had seized 60 modern tanks which rebels abandoned in the area between al-Hautah and al-'Anad."

Source Denies Missiles Hit Aden Homes

JN2005180294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] We have just received the following. A responsible source has stated the following:

In an attempt to cover up its shelling of residential quarters and hospitals in the capital, Sanaa, Ta'izz, al-Hudaydah, al-Rahidah, and other cities with Scud missiles—whose use in wartime against civilians and civilian installations is prohibited—the gang of apostasy and secession within the leadership of the Socialist Party has claimed that the two missiles that fell yesterday evening on Aden airport, which houses military targets and from which the warplanes under the control of the secessionist gangs take off daily to bomb the civilians and the members of our Armed Forces, hit the homes of citizens and caused damage to them, injuring some of their inhabitants.

We doubt such a false claim could fool anyone. And this will also not justify the ugly, heinous crimes of this gang, which will not be forgotten by our people.

Since this criminal gang ignited the fighting in Yemen, the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy have abided by the orders of the brother chairman, Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, to ensure the safety of civilians and their property, no matter what crimes the secessionist gang commits against secure cities and defenseless civilians. The source said the Armed Forces do not possess Scud missiles, which the secessionists claimed that the forces protecting unity and legitimacy used in operations to hit Aden airport.

Communique Notes Military Role

EA2005212294 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 May 94

["Military communique No. 24"; issued by the Defense Ministry; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] With God's assistance, and the determination of the heroic fighters defending our people's right to a free and decent life, for the 24th successive day our brave Armed Forces continued their successful fight on all fronts.

Today, the operations of our Armed Forces were characterized by their swift decisiveness and high morale. [passage omitted]

Our heroic fighters, who are daily joined by hundreds and thousands of volunteers, have rushed to resist and abort all desperate attempts carried out by the hostile forces on all fronts. In the direction of Kharaz Bab al-Mandab, our Armed Forces, with effective and decisive support from our heroic eagles of the air, today engaged the hostile forces of the al-Ahmar gang and prevented them from occupying (al-Tahbub). They inflicted killing blows on these forces, forcing them to either retreat or surrender after sustaining heavy losses in lives and equipment.

In the direction of Harish al-Rahidah, our forces resisted with bravery and daring all desperate attempts made by the hostile forces to advance, and inflicted painful blows on them, which forced them to retreat and withdraw. Our brave forces there demonstratated that al-'Anad is truly obstinate.

In the Abyan sector, our forces continued to inflict strong, effective blows on the hostile forces, and made them suffer heavy losses. They also seized more military machinery and equipment.

The fighting operations of our Armed Forces were today characterized by effective and decisive actions by our air, naval, and land forces on all fronts.

Salih To Comply With Mubarak Call

NC2005204194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2022 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] We have just received the following from the central news desk:

Yemen President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has announced his compliance with President Husni Mubarak's appeal to end the fighting in Yemen. President Salih affirmed to President Mubarak that a decision to end the fighting will be made in the coming hours. This was said in a telephone call that President Mubarak received from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih a few moments ago. During the telephone call, President Mubarak stressed the need to make a decision to end the fighting among all parties and along all fronts. He emphasized that the Yemeni dispute can be resolved through dialogue, understanding, and amity. President Mubarak stressed that the fighting will not decisively settle the current crisis and noted the need to safeguard Yemen's unity and the interests of the Yemeni people.

Meanwhile, President Mubarak has received a telephone call from 'Ali Salim al-Bid, in which he underlined his commitment and compliance with Yemen [as heard].

North To Observe 3-Day Cease-Fire

NC2005203294 Paris AFP in English 2029 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, May 20 (AFP)—The Yemen Government will observe a three-day cease-fire following 15 days of fighting with southern forces, the northern-controlled SABA' news agency reported Friday.

The ceasefire, effective from Saturday 0:00 a.m. (Friday 2100 GMT), was declared on the occasion of the Muslim 'Id al-Adha festival prior to Sunday's celebration of the fourth anniversary of the unification of South and North Yemen, the agency said.

Further on Cease-Fire

LD2105033394 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] In Yemen, Sanaa radio announced this evening that the presidential council, the parliament, and the premiership council had decided on a three-day cease-fire. The same source added that all military activities will be suspended throughout the country beginning midnight on the occasion of the blessed Adha 'Id and the fourth anniversary of the unification of Yemen.

In Aden, very informed sources said that the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], after meetings that lasted 24 hours, decided to secede from Yemen and establish an independent state in the south. The same sources added that an official announcement and more details were expected any time now.

This announcement will be made as soon as the leader of the YSP, Ali Salim al-Bidh, returns to Aden from Hadramawt's eastern region.

Spokesman Notes Latest Operations

JN2105061894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] A responsible military source in the Defense Ministry has stated the following:

The forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy have continued their progress in the coastal region and accomplished the tasks assigned to them. These forces were able to reach Ra's 'Imran, west of the Salah-al-Din military camp in (al-Furayka') on schedule.

On the Lahij-Abyan axis, the Armed Forces units continued their progress, completing the operation of mopping up of all pockets of secessionist dens in Lahij Governorate. The forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy were able to capture three tanks and three artillery pieces in the northeastern areas of al-Hawtah. The forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy on this axis were a able to join hands with the other fighting forces on the Abyan axis. They established a new dimension for their advancing movement. The forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy were able to capture two T-62 tanks west of al-Harur and an armed cache containing large quantities of ammunition and military equipment.

On the Shabwah axis, the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy have continued their advance toward the governorate's capital, Aden, realizing great successes in carrying out their duties. Our advancing forces toward the al-Mahfid, were able to continue their advance toward (al-Nakabah) and were able to destroy the first and second defense lines established by the elements of apostasy and secession in the (al-Nabbabah) area. They restored three tanks to the tanks of the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy.

Continuing the implementation of their military missions to confront the gangs of rebellion and secession and their collapsing military dens, our heroes from the pilots of the Air Force carried out a number of combat missions, hitting all hostile targets. They destroyed two gunboats off the Abyan coast and a third off Ra's 'Imran coast. All planes returned safely to base.

Our air defenses were able to confront counterattacks by the air force of the forces of apostasy and secession, downing a MiG-21 plane within the Lahij-Abyan operations. They also downed a helicopter the day before yesterday on the Abyan-Aden axis. This axis is witnessing increasing activity of the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy. In this axis, units of our Armed Forces are continuing their brave advance, defeating the forces of apostasy and secession, and destroying several vehicles and pieces of equipment after knocking them out.

North Renounced for Cease-Fire Violation

EA2105185994 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 May 94

[Statement issued by the Ministry of Defense of the "Democratic Republic of Yemen" on 21 May; place not given]

[Text] Our heroic armed forces were surprised at 0600 this morning, 21 May 1994, the first day of the blessed 'Id al-Adha, by the continuing, barbaric shelling of the forces of the war General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih along the battlefronts, Abyan, Karish and Kharaz, in spite of the propaganda issued by the war general that he had given his instructions to cease fire effective noon Friday, 20 May, in response to the appeals addressed to him by a number of national figures, Arab leaders, and friendly countries. It is regrettable that the announcement was no more than empty (?words) to mislead the public. It also mislead those Arab leaders and some friendly countries who called for the cease-fire out of respect for these sacred days and to prevent further bloodshed of our innocent sons and brave armed forces who found themselves in a position where they had to defend themselves, the homeland, and the citizens on battlefields. They are now resisting with rare courage the forces of the war general 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih which direct blows against them and inflict on them horrible loss of life and equipment. These forces have begun to be defeated and are now fleeing in different directions leaving behind them hundreds of corpses and considerable war materiel, some pieces destroyed but others still serviceable. The Ministry of Defense and the armed forces wish to confirm their support for our people's sons in the southern and eastern governorates on the declaration of the Democratic Republic of Yemen announced by the militant patriotic leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid. They are ready to make sacrifices and protect the sacred land of this dear homeland with all that is precious against anyone who conceives of trifling with its security and stability. God give us success, he is our best friend and supporter.

Source Denies Salih Claims

LD2105225194 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] A responsible military source in the Democratic Republic of Yemen has said that the information being leaked by the news media of the bloody al-Ahmar gang in Sanaa which keeps (?misleading) Arab and international public opinion that the gang's forces have reached up to within view of the city of Aden, are untrue. The source said that it was not strange for the trumpets of this gang to continue the course of lies, misleading reports and deceptions with the objective of falsifying the realities at the battle fronts and concealing its defeats and its enormous human and material losses.

The responsible military source in the Democratic Republic of Yemen recalled the obvious and scandalous

contradictions in the statements issued by the dictator 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, head of the ruling gang in Sanaa, in his press conference held this morning when he pointed out that his forces had destroyed 80 percent of the weapons and machinery of our steadfast armed forces. At the same time, he admitted his inability to determine the outcome of the battle quickly because of what he called the existence of a huge military arsenal belonging to our forces. The responsible military source ridiculed the misleading information given by the ruler of Sanaa that three brigades in Shabwah had surrendered. The military source pointed out that had this claim been true then the forces of the ruling gang would have occupied Shabwah in its entirety where the brigades which the war general claimed had surrendered to him were based. He is seeking imaginary gains which have been difficult for him to achieve in the battlefields due to the steadfastness of our armed forces and the masses of the people which supported them and out of their conviction in the justice of their right to life.

The responsible military source in the Democratic Republic of Yemen has reiterated that the misleading media reports of the dictator, the dictator of Sanaa, are tantamount to confused dreams and that the road to Aden is a very long and thorny one. It will be the graveyard of the new invaders before their delusions can touch proud Aden.

Missile Hits Aden City; 2 Killed

NC2205061394 Paris AFP in English 0156 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, May 22 (AFP)—A missile believed to have been fired by north Yemen forces slammed into an eastern district of Aden early Sunday killing two people and wounding three others, rescue workers said.

The missile fell on a house in the Khormaksar district causing widespread damage and cutting electricity supplies to the area.

All the casualties were from the same family, ambulance crews said.

The attack was the first missile strike on Aden since the proclamation 24 hours ago of an independent state in the south in what used to be the Marxist republic of South Yemen.

Two Scud missiles fell on the port city overnight Thursday as fighting raged between the northern troops of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and southern troops backing former vice-president 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

The attack came two hours after a five-man presidential council was officially named to head the southern independent state proclaimed overnight Friday by al-Bid, the leader of the Yemeni Socialist Party, the reformed ex-ruling party in South Yemen.

The north and south, which united four years ago Sunday, have been embroiled in a civil war since May 4.

Officer: Northerners Control Base

NC2205094494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Malik 'Ali al-Sayyafi, chief of the Yemeni Army General Staff, has confirmed that the northern forces are now in full control of the strategic al-'Anad Base.

He told our radio correspondent in Sanaa that units of the Yemeni Army on the southern axis have been in full control of the base near Aden since Friday afternoon.

Meanwhile, Yemeni Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani said the Yemeni Government is willing to negotiate with the Yemeni Socialist Party members who have rejected 'Ali Salim al-Bid's declaration of secession. He added that the legitimate government is seeking channels to contact these members.

Chief of Staff Notes Situation

NC2205113594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1005 GMT 22 May 94

[Interview with Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Malik 'Ali al-Sayyani, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff, by correspondent Mahmud al-Warraq; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Warraq] Let us talk about the military situation at the front.

[Al-Sayyani] As you know, the fighting is proceeding well and is moving toward a resolution in favor of the constitutionally legitimate authorities. The forces have made noticeable progress on various lines along an approximately 1,000-km-long front, breaking the secession barrier forever; and they are now near Aden City and are tightening the blockade of the city. Forces in the east are at the gates of 'Ataq city, seeking to gain final control over Shabwah Governorate. Other forces also are advancing toward their targets steadily.

[Al-Warraq] What about the other side's claims?

[Al-Sayyani] The actual situation on the battlefield answers their claims and falsifications.

[Al-Warraq] If you were to address your forces, what would you say?

[Al-Sayyani] God willing, victory is close. We will defeat the forces of apostasy and secession that are trying to harm the brightest aspect of our Arab situation, Yemeni unity, and they will not be allowed to achieve their aims.

[Al-Warraq] How long will this take?

[Al-Sayyani] The time will be decided by the battle and the field situation. [passage omitted]

Operations, Brigade Defections Noted

JN2205134794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1217 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] A responsible military source at the Defense Ministry has stated the following:

As the masses of our Yemeni people were rejoicing at the announcement issued by the joint meeting of the presidential council, the speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Council of Ministers to consider the day of the blessed 'Id al-Adha, the fourth national anniversary of the restoration of unity and the establishment of the Republic of Yemen, and the days that follows [21-23 May] as days for peace during which military operations against the rebellious secessionist gang in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leadership will be suspended in honor and appreciation of both the meaning of these two occasions and the sanctity of religious rituals and also in response to the calls by the unionists and a number of Arab leaders to give a new opportunity to the misled and helpless ones to return to the path of justice, unity, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy and to declare their rejection and confrontation of the secessionist conspiracy; and as our valiant Armed Forces, the forces of unity and legitimacy, were abiding by both that announcement and the instructions of the higher political and military commands to suspend all military acts, they were surprised by the flagrant hostile escalation by the forces of rebellion and secession, who opened fire with a variety of weapons and launched air raids in criminal acts coordinated with the treacherous, invalid crime of secession only two hours after the chance for peace was announced.

This prompted all Armed Forces units to implement what was stipulated in the announcement—that military breaches by the gang of rebellion and secession will be replied to. They took measures to confront these hostile acts, thus the military confrontation continued even after the last veil fell off the faces of secessionists led by the rebellious traitor al-Bid.

The heroes in our Armed Forces' air defense units managed to down one aircraft belonging to the gang of rebellion and secession in Habil al-Jabr on the Lahij-Abyan axis. Our Armed Forces units acting on that axis also seized 15 tanks, four BM-21 Katyusha vehicles, 15 vehicles and BTR armored personnel carriers, five fuel and water (?pickups). They also seized warehouses containing large quantities of military ammunition and hardware.

At dawn yesterday, and only a few hours after the futile secessionist announcement and the emergence of the truth about the allegations and lies of the forces of rebellion and secession in the YSP leadership, several military brigades under the hegemony of the secessionist gang announced they were joining the ranks of the unity and constitutional legitimacy and their rejection of the destructive, treacherous calls for secession. The commander, as well as some officers, NCO's, and soldiers from the 22d Brigade announced their rejection of the crime of secession and that they were returning to the trench of defending unity, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy.

On the Shabwah axis, the heroes of our valiant Armed Forces were able to confront attacks by the secessionist, rebellious forces and inflicted heavy losses on them. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: If ye will aid [the cause of] God, He will aid you, and plant your feet firmly. [koranic verse]

Radio Reports Scud Attack on Aden

EA2205165394 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 May 94

[Excerpt] This morning Scud missiles hit the city of Aden. One missile fell on the populated areas of Khawr Maksar killing whole families. Many citizens in the populated Sa'adah area were seriously wounded. Only two days ago, the city of Aden was subjected to similar barbaric attacks in that same area. Aden port, the oil refinery in al-Burayqah town, and the geothermal station at al-Hiswah were also effected. [passage omitted]

Aden Denies Plane Downed Over Abyan

EA2205165994 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 May 94

[Excerpt] A responsible military source at the armed forces command in the Democratic Republic of Yemen has denied what has been reported by the French news agency. The agency, quoting a military spokesman in Sanaa, said that the forces of the al-Ahmar gang shot down a southern aircraft over the Abyan area. The source also denied that the northern forces had seized any equipment or war materiel in this governorate. The source said that the forces of the adventurous al-Ahmar gang in the Governorate of Abyan were not in a position to shoot down aircraft or seize any other military equipment. What was reported was no more than cheap media reporting and feverish psychological warfare. [passage omitted]

Aden Forces Vow Retaliation

EA2205190194 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] A responsible military source at the command of the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of Yemen has said that the forces of the adventurous al-Ahmar gang not only failed to adhere to the cease-fire announced on evening of 20 May, but had in fact escalated the fighting on all fronts. It unleashed large forces in all directions. More serious than this, it used rockets in its criminal acts.

Last night, the inhabitants of the quiet and peaceful city of Aden, which was celebrating the declaration of the Democratic Republic of Yemen and the blessed 'Id al-Adha, were surprised by a rocket which fell in a

heavily populated area killing and wounding peaceful women and children. Meanwhile, the air defense forces of the Democratic Republic of Yemen succeeded in shooting down a similar rocket in the air.

The responsible source confirmed that this was a criminal act and was part of the series of the terrible crimes of the family of al-Ahmar, under the leadership of war general 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The armed forces of the Democratic Republic of Yemen reserve for themselves the right to retaliate forcefully against these stupid and crazy acts of the bloody al-Ahmar gang.

North Claims Capture of Oil Base

NC2205205894 Paris AFP in English 2027 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, May 22 (AFP)—Northern forces on Sunday captured the southern military base at 'Ataq, the capital of the oil- producing province of Shabwah, a military spokesman said here.

"All of the base's facilities are in the hands of the legal (northern) forces," the spokesman told the north's official SABA' news agency.

The northern forces, loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, also shot down a southern MiG 21 fighter plane above Shabwah and "seized large quantities of weapons and munitions in storage areas in the province."

"Shabwah's citizens actively contributed to the success of the legal forces," the spokesman said.

In Lahaj Province to the west of Aden and Abyan Province to the east, northern forces "cleaned up several pockets of resistance," the spokesman said.

"Large quantities of weapons were seized" during these operations, including an abandoned helicopter, he said. The north's air force has continued "to carry out its missions, hitting targets with precision."

The claims could not be independently verified.

Before the war broke out on May 5 the areas of Shabwah and Masilah produced 140,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd), accounting for almost all of the south's output. Another 195,000 bpd is produced in the northern Ma'rib region.

Defense Ministry Notes Events

JN2205232594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] A responsible source at the Defense Ministry has stated the following:

With the help of Almighty God, and the courage and dedication of the heroes in the Armed Forces, the heroic fighters in the forces of unity and the protectors of constitutional legitimacy, have continued to fulfill the combat duties assigned to them in confronting the forces of rebellion and secession on all axes and sectors. In the eastern, Shabwah axis, the valiant Armed Forces units managed to capture the military base and the central axis command headquarters in the city of 'Ataq, the capital of the governorate. Thus, the Shabwah Governorate, with all its districts and all its military installations, is now in the hands of constitutional legitimacy. A Mig-21 was downed in the ('Aqibat 'Arad) and a large quantity of weapons, vehicles, and military equipment, including all military depots in the governorate, was seized.

The loyal brother citizens and their courageous stand alongside the forces of constitutional legitimacy played a key role in these major achievements. The people greeted the Armed Forces with open hearts and feelings of happiness in all districts, expressing their absolute support for unity and constitutional legitimacy, and taking part in action alongside their great national Army, which is capable of defeating the secessionists and their supporters.

On the Abyan-Lahij axis, the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy continued their heroic and brave tasks. They purged a number of defeated secessionist pockets, making real advances and inflicting on the forces of apostasy and secession major losses in hardware, weapons, and vehicles.

The units of the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy also managed to seize large quantities of arms and military hardware, including a helicopter that was lying intact after its crew had fled. The forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy are continuing to execute their combat tasks.

In the same direction, the pilot heroes of the Armed Forces have continued to accomplish the tasks assigned to them. They hit these targets with great success and accurate effectiveness. The secessionist traitors will reap the harvest of their actions.

In their name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. If ye will aid the cause of God, he will aid you and plant your feet firmly. [koranic verse]

[Signed] The Ministry of Defense, Sanaa.

Spokesman Denies Fall of 'Ataq

LD2305091794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0820 GMT 23 May 94

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 23 May (KUNA)—Radio Sanaa has reported that northern troops have managed to control Shabwah Governorate and its districts which are rich with oil and that they are advancing to the southern part, which declared secession from Yemen last Saturday. Radio Sanaa, which is received here, quoted a military source as saying that the northern troops in the eastern Shabwah axis have captured the military base and the central axis command headquarters in the city of 'Ataq, the capital of the province, with all its districts and all its

military installations. These reports, which are considered an important development that would deprive the southern part of its important military and economic resources, have not been confirmed. [passage omitted]

The military source said that northern troops have seized a large quantity of weapons, ammunition, and military depots in Shabwah Governorate. [passage omitted]

A southern military spokesman today denied reports that 'Ataq military base, the capital of Shabwah Province, has fallen to northern forces. Aden radio, received here, quoted the spokesman as saying that northern troops are not in control of Shabwah Province, and that the news announced by Sanaa is totally unfounded. [passage omitted]

Spokesman From South Comments

NC2305073994 Paris AFP in English 0708 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Aden, May 23 (AFP)—A southern military spokesman denied Monday that northern Yemeni forces had captured a key base at 'Ataq, capital of the oil-producing province of Shabwah.

The claim by forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was "totally unfounded, the spokesman told television in Aden, capital of the breakaway state headed by southern leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

A military spokesman in the capital Sanaa told the official SABA' news agency on Sunday that the 'Ataq base had fallen to government troops.

Northern forces also said they had been in control of another southern military base at al-'Anad since Friday and had now surrounded the southern stronghold of Aden.

'Ataq lies 130 kilometers (78 miles) east of Aden.

Salih Chairs Joint Leadership Meeting 20 May

JN2105044594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, yesterday chaired a joint meeting of the presidential council, the speakership council of the House of Representative, and the Council of Ministers. The meeting dealt with political, military, security, and economic situations and the overall national developments in light of the actions committed by the insurgent secessionist gang in the Socialist Party leadership in terms of igniting the war and sedition in the homeland and pushing the Armed Forces into the fire of internecine fighting with the aim of implementing their secessionist plot to dismember the country.

The conferees adopted the necessary decisions on these issues and situations.

The conferees highly appreciated the glorious and heroic role and splendid successes of our armed Forces in the battle to uphold the people's desire to adhere to unity and protect constitutional legitimacy and democracy. The conferees expressed their great satisfaction and appreciation of our Yemeni people's wide-scale support across the homeland and their backing and cohesion with their sons and brothers in the Armed forces to bravely confront the forces of apostasy and secession.

The conferees affirmed that the unity is the fate and destiny of the Yemeni people and that there can be no relinquishment or retreat from unity no matter what the cost.

Further on Meeting

JN2205064894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, yesterday, Saturday, chaired a joint meeting of the Presidential Council, the Speakership Council of the House of Representatives, and the Council of Ministers. The conferees discussed the latest developments in the secessionist plot engineered and executed by the rebellious separatists in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leadership against unity, democracy, and Constitutional legitimacy in the country. The conferees also discussed the blatant and escalating treasonous stand of the so- called 'Ali Salim al-Bid—the war criminal and enemy of unity, democracy, and Constitutional institutions—who has finally revealed his real nature and the reality of his destructive intentions and illegitimate ambitions. These were revealed in his secessionist declaration, which is based solely on his grudge against the people and his plot against their unity.

Only two hours after the people rejoiced over the declaration of the three-day peace made yesterday by the joint meeting of the Presidential Council, the Speakership Council of the House of Representatives, and the Council of Ministers on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha and the fourth anniversary of the Republic of Yemen, in response to the call of the YSP unionists and a number of Arab leaders, and to give the misled and helpless people an opportunity to declare their clear principled stand against the secessionists and in support of unity and Constitutional legitimacy; following a review of the treacherous stands adopted by secessionist elements that were accompanied by premeditated violations of the call for peace and continued attacks by the secessionist gang on the units of our Armed Forces, the forces of unity protecting Constitutional legitimacy; and in light of the steps and events that would result, the conferees adopted a group of sovereign and Constitutional decisions aimed at protecting unity and democracy and pooling all efforts in the holy national war.

The joint meeting of the Presidential Council, the Speakership Council of the House of Representatives, and the Council of Ministers issued the following statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In light of these very delicate and important circumstances through which our Yemeni homeland is passing; in the course of confrontation against the challenges facing the national constants on which society is based and to which the Republic of Yemen adheres, particularly the Constitutional principles and the dear national achievements of the people—the dearest of which are unity and democracy—the joint meeting firmly reiterates that the Yemeni people, particularly the Armed Forces, the Security Forces, and all Constitutional institutions, will confront all serious plots aimed at encroaching on their unity or tampering with their national choice.

Our Yemeni people, who offered great sacrifices to achieve unity, are always ready to offer more sacrifices to safeguard this great historic achievement. Our lofty Yemeni people, who foiled the attempts to create a new secessionist reality in the homeland, under the slogan of the fabricated crisis raised by traitor 'Ali Salim al- Bid, can also bury his miserable secessionist declaration, which was born dead and which came as the rebellious secessionists were dying. They will face their destiny, thanks to the steadfastness of our Yemeni people and their rallying around their legitimate leadership and their brave Armed Forces.

This declaration is considered by every Constitutional, legal, and political criteria as high treason. It will not go unpunished. It is considered a violation of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen and a departure from the collective will of the people who declared their unionist word on 22 May 1990 when they said yes to the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen, to unity, and to democracy, in the public referendum of 15 May 1991.

While we underline these facts, we urge all sons of our struggling people to rally behind the ranks of eternal unity and stand in the trenches to defend and preserve that unity. We urge them to sacrifice everything they hold dear and to pool all available resources and energies to ensure that popular efforts are coordinated with military operations to ensure results as soon as possible and at the least possible cost.

We are confident that our people and all their political, social, and cultural forces—including the ulema, thinkers, shayks, intellectuals, merchants, workers, students, youth, men, and women—will set the most splendid examples in this eternal national confrontation of a serious threat to their single existence, their independent political entity, and their shining civilized fate.

In this regard, and because we appreciate and value all the previous positions of the fraternal and friendly states with our people, and their unity and democratic march, we are certain that they will not continue to deal with the gang of rebellion and secession, especially after its secessionist trend was confirmed in practice. Consequently, any kind of dealing by any party with the traitor 'Ali Salim al-Bid and his declaration of secession is considered an act against the Yemeni people and flagrant and rejected intervention in the Republic of Yemen's internal affairs. All Constitutional authorities in our country have the right to deal with such an act in the appropriate manner.

In a spirit of sincere brotherhood and with the feelings of noble tolerance that live in the hearts of all Yemenis; and with a substantive, deep view of the requirements of logic and a deep faith in the one country and in the loyalty and tolerance of all of its children, we urge all unionists in the Socialist Party, all those deceived by the rebellious secessionists, and all those living under the tyranny of these criminal, secessionist gangs to take swift, clear, and decisive positions on the side of the people, their unity and Constitutional legitimacy, and its institutions, which are based on the will of the people and which were established according to the people's free and democratic choice.

Out of concern for them and out of respect for the principle of participation, we urge them to shoulder the national responsibilities and reject any further killings, and to help break the circle of destruction of the people's resources and energies, for which the adventurous secessionists show no concern. Al-Bid's statement confirms their destructive and bloody intention. Here, we stress with all confidence and growing ability that our Yemeni people, and all their united forces and segments, particularly in the Armed Forces and the security agencies, are able to (?raise higher) the word of the people, which stems from the words of God, and to champion the people's free will to protect unity, preserve Constitutional legitimacy, and protect security and stability under the lofty banners of the Republic of Yemen.

Salih Calls Off Cease-Fire 21 May, Vows To Capture Aden

NC2105102594 Paris AFP in English 0955 GMT 21 May 94

[by Laurence Peter]

[Text] Sanaa, May 21 (AFP)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih called off a ceasefire on Saturday and vowed that his northern forces would capture the key port city of Aden after his southern rivals declared an independent state.

Salih told a press conference at the presidential palace that fighting had raged on after southern forces ignored a three-day truce the north declared late Friday.

Southern troops were still fighting so "there is no ceasefire," he said.

"We already said we were adhering to the ceasefire but the separatist forces initiated fighting on all war fronts this morning, so fighting is going on."

The president added: "We are now putting a military ring around Aden," the former capital of Marxist South Yemen, which united with conservative North Yemen four years ago.

"After putting this ring around Aden our intention was not to enter the city. However, after the announcement of separation by the south we are obliged to enter the city at all costs."

He added: "Then the armed forces will continue to pursue the separatists in al-Mukalla," a port east of Aden where his southern rival Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid reportedly moved his base earlier this week.

The northerners have been battling to reach Aden all week, but had earlier said they would only blockade the city but not enter it, and promised not to harm the civilian population of more than 500,000.

The north had announced the ceasefire for the Moslem feast of 'Id al-Adha (sacrifice), which starts on Saturday.

Asked how long the war, now in its third week, would last, Salih said: "This decision can be made only by commanders in the field. We hope it would end as soon as possible."

"We are facing the war machine of a former state which was a member of the socialist bloc, armed to the teeth," he said.

But he added that Bid's army had lost 80 percent of its equipment since the start of the conflict on May 5. He charged that two Tupolev transport planes had arrived at al-Mukalla airport and another ship was unloading military hardware at the city's port.

"These aircraft and ships will be considered as the enemy," he warned.

He said a number of southern units had "declared loyalty to the legitimate authority after they heard the declaration of separation," especially the powerful 'Abbas brigade in the oil- producing province of Shabwaho.

Several members of al-Bid's Yemen Socialist Party had also assured him of their loyalty.

"Al-Bid has no cause," he said. "If he had a cause he would have stayed in Aden, now he has escaped to al-Mukalla.

"Al-Bid will eventually have to run away to Oman or Saudi Arabia. He will eventually have to join his separatist colleagues living abroad. In fact, he has already sent away his family."

Asked about possible support from other Arab countries for al- Bid, Salih said: "Any Arab country or friendly state which may try to sympathise with this position puts itself in the rank of the enemies of the Yemeni people."

"This would represent a flagrant interference in Yemen's internal affairs," he said.

Salih Briefs Arab Leaders on Developments

JN2205074194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Lieutenant General brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, last night held telephone contacts with Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques; His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the fraternal United Arab Emirates; struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the fraternal State of Palestine; Hafiz al- Asad, president of the fraternal Syrian Arab Republic; and Liamine Zeroual, president of the fraternal Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria.

During these contacts, the leaders exchanged congratulations on the blessed 'Id al-Adha. Our country's relations with each of these leaders' country were also discussed.

The brother president briefed his brother leaders on the current developments in the Yemeni arena in light of traitor ['Ali Salim] al-Bid's action against his Yemeni homeland and the Arab nation of announcing secession, which only represents himself and the small gang of the [Yemeni] Socialist party [YSP] that conspires against the Yemeni homeland, unity, people, and their democratic approach.

The president said that all the sons of our people in all the Yemeni governorates reject this crime and adhere to unity and democracy. They will continue to strongly defend and protect them from all plots and plotters, and to sacrifice all that is dear for their sake. He also said the masses of our Arab nation also reject this crime because they view the Yemeni unity as an important step on the road to achieving the pan-Arab objective of establishing comprehensive unity among the sons of the Arab nation.

The president expressed appreciation for the stands of the Arab brothers who have always been concerned about Yemeni unity and about supporting the Yemeni people's march under the banner of the Republic of Yemen, whose fourth anniversary is being celebrated by our people.

Another telephone contact was held last night between Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution in Libya.

They exchanged congratulations on the blessed 'Id al-Adha and the current developments in our country in light of the crime of secession committed by traitor al-Bid.

The Libyan leader said he was very upset because of the current serious developments which threaten the march of the Yemeni unity. He also reiterated his support for

the Yemeni unity and that of the Libyan people's support for the Yemeni people to safeguard the Yemeni unity, considering it a pan-Arab gain for the Arab nation and an advanced step on the road of achieving the comprehensive unity.

Phones Amir of Qatar

JN2205210094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has phoned the Amir of Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, to extend greetings of the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

The brother president updated Shaykh Khalifah on Yemeni developments in light of the secessionist decision by the renegade traitor al-Bid. [words indistinct] Qatar's principled and consistent stand in support of Yemen's unity and legitimacy. The brother president applauded the genuine and pan-Arab attitude of brothers in Qatar, led by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani and his heir apparent Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, toward Yemeni unity as a gain for the entire Arab nation. He emphasized that our Yemeni people and Armed Forces will take on all challenges.

'Corrective' YSP Faction Cables Support to Salih

JN2105201194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] The Leading Committee of the Fattah Corrective Stream [al-lajnatu al-qiyadiyatu litayyar fattah al-tashihi] in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] has sent a cable to Lieutenant General brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha and the fourth anniversary of the Republic of Yemen. The cable stressed that the committee adheres to the unity of Yemen in that it rehabilitates the history of the country. It stated its rejection of the secessionist step taken by the traitor 'Ali Salim al-Bid and his secessionist gang, and called for purging the country of this rotten band. The cable said that far from echoing the grass roots opinion in the YSP, the decision only speaks for the secessionist gang led by al-Bid. The Leading Committee of the Fattah Corrective Stream in the YSP appealed to the brother chairman and members of the Presidential Council to take a determined stand against this separatist step which aims to take the Yemeni people back to the era of division and to kill democracy.

The committee emphasized that it is taking the side of constitutional legality and its courageous forces as they stand up to the gang of apostasy and secession inside the YSP.

'Ali Salim al-Bid Reportedly Leaves for Hadhramaut

JN2005133894 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Regarding the war in Yemen, Sanaa has tightened its siege of Aden, following the fall of al-'Anad Air Base, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid has left Aden for Hadhramaut.

Visits, Inspects al-Mukalla Port

EA2005191094 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] The deputy chairman of the presidential council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, late yesterday afternoon made an inspection tour of the wharves of al-Mukalla port, in the Khalf zone.

On arrival at the port, he was received by Brother Awad 'Abdallah al-Murshidi, the deputy of the Governorate of Hadramawt, the director generals of the governorate, port officials, shipping corporation officials, and chamber of commerce members.

The brother secretary general was briefed during his visit on the activities at the port, shipping movements, and work going on to unload basic foodstuffs. He also heard a detailed briefing on programs to import commodities like wheat, rice, flour, milk products, and sugar, 33 tons of which arrived during the last two days. He was also briefed on the distribution of these commodities in the Governorates of Hadramawt, Shabwah, and al-Mahrah to ensure stable supplies and improve living standards.

He was accompanied on his visit by political bureau member Salim Muhammad Burran; Salih Abu-Bakr Bin Husaynun, minister of oil and mineral wealth; and a number of other officials.

South's al-Bid Phones PLO's 'Arafat To Discuss Events

EA2005194894 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Mr. 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the vice chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, made a telephone call to Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, the president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO.

The talks dealt with the current military developmnets and the brutal war imposed on our Yemeni people by the al-Ahmar gang. The Palestinian president expressed concern of the events and affirmed that he is going to exert his efforts to stop bloodshed in Yemen.

There was exchange of greetings on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha. The Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat wished the Yemeni people peace, stability, and progress and Mr. 'Ali Salim al-Bid also congratulated Mr. Yasir 'Arafat on

this happy occasion, and w[illegible]l the Palestinian people more success on the path of achieving their Palestinian state.

Al-Bid Addresses Citizens on 'Id al-Adha

EA2205160594 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] The brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party's [YSP] Central Committee, addressed a speech to the masses of the Yemeni people on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha in which he stressed that Yemen was facing oppression, tyranny, and an unjust war.

He said that a catastrophe has befallen Yemen and we have done everything we could to avoid it, but the tyrants have decided to impose it on us. If they have succeeded in imposing the war on us, they will not, and they cannot, impose surrender on us by their whims, desires, and shortsightedness.

The brother 'Ali Salih al-Bid pointed out that on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha, on the day when the pilgrims stand on Mount Arafat, we appeal to God, the Great and Almighty. We stand with our heads held high. We refuse tyranny and oppression and we refuse to surrender.

He said that nothing other than what God has ordained would befall us. We would face the injustice, irrespective of the hands. [sentence as heard] Our belief would increase and we would overstep this ordeal and show resistance similar to that shown on the battlefield. Though the criminal gang has dispatched all its forces to destroy the towns and besiege Aden, it did not succeed in achieving anything. If they managed to enter some areas, they have entered them as invaders and occupiers.

The brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid expressed his confidence that the masses of our people could respond to the occupation and invasion, in the same manner as they confronted the Middle East base before independence in Aden.

He called upon our courageous soldiers and brave strugglers to make a single stance and to adhere closely to God and the homeland and to the principles of the September and October revolutions which we have absorbed. May God, the Great and Almighty, enforce the right and defeat the rabble tyrants who refuse to accept a cease-fire even during these sacred days and on the day of the standing on Mount Arafat.

South Yemen Takes Steps To Form Government

NC2205060294 Paris AFP in English 0049 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, May 22 (AFP)—A five-man presidential council for the independent state newly proclaimed in south Yemen was named overnight Saturday, it was officially announced in Aden.

Its members were appointed by the provisional Council of National Salvation—a body composed of elected parliamentary deputies from the south, religious leaders and representatives of political parties and political leaders.

The five include the leader of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who spearheaded the break with Sanaa.

Members were named as:

- al-Bid
- Salim Salih Muhammad—YSP deputy secretary-general
- 'Abd-al-Rahman Ja'far—secretary-general of the opposition "Sons of Yemen Party"
- 'Abd-al-Qawi Makkawi—Opposition figure resident in Cairo
- Sulayman Nasir Mas'ud—a supporter of former South Yemen president 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

Al-Bid proclaimed overnight Friday an independent Yemen Democratic Republic in what was formerly Marxist South Yemen amid a two-week civil war with forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, a northerner.

The break came four years to the day after South and North Yemen were reunified.

Speaker Appointed to National Salvation Council

EA2205161394 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 22 May 94

["Decree No. 1" issued by the National Salvation Council in Aden on 21 May]

[Text] In the name of the people, recognizing Articles 12 and 14, paragraph A of the declaration of the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Yemen; confirming the provisional National Salvation Council's statement endorsed in the meeting held on 21 May 1994 regarding the appointment of a speaker for the council, the following has been decided:

Article 1: Brother Anis Hasan Yahya is to be appointed speaker of the provisional National Salvation Council,

Article 2: The speaker will be entrusted to take charge of the power and duties in accordance with the provisions of the declaration of the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Yemen,

Articles 3: This statement is effective as of the date of its issuance,

Article 4: This statement shall be published in the official gazette.

Official Decision on Council

LD2205123194 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0630 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Decision of the Provisional Council for National Salvation No. 2 [as heard]/1994 concerning the se"ing up of the State Presidential Council:

In the name of the people, after taking cognizance of Articles 1, 13 and 14, Paragraph B of the document on the proclamation of the Democratic Republic of Yemen, and the two decisions of the Provisional Council No. 1/1994 regarding the election of a chairman for the council, and No. 2 [as heard]/1994 for the proclamation of the Democratic Republic of Yemen, and the decisions of the Provisional Council for National Salvation at its meeting on 21 May 1994 concerning the election of the State Presidential Council, the Provisional Council for National Salvation has decided the following:

Article 1: The Presidential Council of the Democratic Republic of Yemen is formed as follows: 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Salim Salih Muhammad, 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali al-Ja'fari, 'Abd-al-Qawi Hasan Makkawi, and Sulayman Nasir Mas'ud.

Article 2: The Presidential Council assumes all its tasks and prerogatives in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, and the document of the setting up of the Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Article 3: This decision takes effect from the date of its issuance.

Article 4: This decision will be published in the official gazette.

Council Appoints al-Bid Chairman

EA2205174894 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1440 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Brother fighters and listeners, we have just received the following. In the name of God, the compassionate and merciful, the presidential council of the Democratic Republic of Yemen issues decree No. 1 of 22 May 1994.

The elected presidential council has met and, after referring to the constitution, has decreed the following:

1. To elect Dr. 'Ali Salim al-Bid chairman of the presidential council.

2. This decree will become effective from the day of its issuance and will be registered in the official gazette.

In the name of God, the compassionate and merciful, the presidential council of the Democratic Republic of Yemen issues decree No. 2 of 22 May 1994.

The council has met and, after referring to the constitution, has decreed the following:

1. To appoint brother 'Abd-al-rathman Ali Bin-Muhammad al-Jifri deputy chairman of the presidential council.

2. This decree will become effective from the day of its issuance and will be registered in the official gazette.

Former South Yemeni President Rejects Post in New State

NC2205175994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 22 May 94

[Excerpt] Damascus, 22 May (MENA)—Former south Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad received a telephone call from 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, who urged him to return to Aden and assume the post of the first vice president of the Democratic Republic of Yemen, which was announced in south Yemen yesterday.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed his total rejection of the idea of secession and asked al-Bid to change his mind about establishing a state in south Yemen and to search for a solution within the framework of Yemeni unity.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Damascus, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said he was ready to play a new mediation role to solve the crisis within this framework and to return to Yemen within 48 hours. However, the decision to secede and the subsequent developments have prevented him from conducting this mediation.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad warned that the secession decision will not solve Yemen's problem but will complicate it further, lead to a series of new conflicts, and partition Yemen into small entities and states. [passage omitted]

Al-'Attas To Form National Unity Government

EA2205190594 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Brother Dr. 'Ali Salim al-Bid, chairman of the Presidential Council, today issued Presidential Council Decree no. 3 of 1994. The first article charges brother engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas to form a government of national unity in consultation with the Presidential Council.

The other articles provide for the implementation of the decree with effect from the date of its issuance, and for its publication in the official gazette.

YSP Assails 'War Criminal' Salih in 'Id al-Adha Message

LD2105093394 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2045 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] has issued a statement on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha feast. The statement pointed out [words indistinct] Arab and Islamic peoples were celebrating with joy and high hopes and Muslims everywhere

were exchanging greetings on this occasion. Yet the war criminal 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was determined to send 'Id greetings in his own special way: instead of peace and security, he killed the children's joy.

The statement added that 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih has stubbornly challenged the national, Arab, and international will to stop the war. Thus, he has confirmed his satanic inclinations and his desire to destroy everything beautiful.

The statement also said that a number of towns and villages in the southern governorates have been the target of random and barbaric shelling. War criminal 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has pushed thousands of innocent people from certain areas into the crematoria of death. He ordered soldiers to kill each other and tanks and airplanes to destroy installations in villages and towns. He has also robbed the country's wealth and has filled the prisons with innocent people.

The Political Bureau expressed appreciation for the Arab leaders' stances and for their desire to end the fighting in Yemen. It also held 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the al-Ahmar family responsible for (?continuing) the war.

The Political Bureau hailed the heroic achievements of our armed forces against the attacks. It also greeted people in all the republic's governorates on the occasion of the advent of the blessed 'Id al-Adha feast.

Sanaa Radio Says Everyone Now Fighting al-Bid

JN2305074694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] The command of God has been delivered, so don't be too persistent. This is what we tell the gang of apostasy and secession. This is because the announcement of secession made by the traitor 'Ali Salim al-Bid is evidence that his hour and that of his gang has come and that God's command will be implemented at the hands of his honest slaves of the sons of Yemen in the battles of honor and sacrifice and on the axes of combat. When the time comes for the implementation of God's command, this cannot be delayed or prevented. This is especially true since God does not reward the actions of the corrupt and He is always watchful of the traitors.

'Ali Salim al-Bid and his traitorous collaborators have asked for it. They have dug their own graves. They have preferred blindness to guidance and violated their commitment and pledge to God, so He led them astray, blinded them, and promised them severe punishment.

They have thought their weapons would save them from God and the people. But God surprised them and threw panic into their hearts and made the unionists stand firm. Thus, all the people are now fighting the battle against al-Bid and his gang. The gang is now closer to falling in the abyss and very near its end.

Have they not heard the marching of the forces of legitimacy and unity when these forces continued to capture locations, hardware, and various weapons? Have they not learned that the forces which they had controlled are daily joining the forces of legitimacy in all positions? Have they not heard that the nationalist parties and popular bodies and organizations have all condemned their grave traitorous act? Have they not heard the unionists within the Yemeni Socialist Party condemn this malicious secessionist crime and disown this malevolent traitorous action? Have they not seen the world ridicule their traitorous action?

Indeed, they have heard and seen all of this. We shall leave them in their trespasses, to wander in distraction. [Koranic verse] They are embarking on an adventure and are shooting their arrows right and left. Therefore, what they have done so far, and what they will do, are no more than random acts committed in the dark. [passage omitted]

Al-Bid's 'Ugly Secessionist Action' Condemned

JN2205200794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1938 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 22 May (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has condemned the announcement to secede from united Yemen made by 'Ali Salim al-Bid late Saturday night, 21 May.

In a statement to INA, the foreign minister said Iraq emphasizes its full support for the territorial and popular unity of sisterly Yemen, and supports the legitimate and constitutional authority in Yemen, led by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The Foreign minister said: We strongly condemn the ugly secessionist action carried out by 'Ali Salim al-Bid and his group.

Concluding his statement, the foreign minister said: We wish success to our brothers in Yemen in safeguarding the Yemeni unity, security, safety, and the unity of the brotherly Yemeni people against the renegade and backward forces.

London TV Reports on Iraq's Nuclear Capability

LD2005112594

[Editorial report] London ITV Television Network in English at 1830 GMT on 19 May in its "3-D" program carries at 15-minute report entitled "Saddam's Secret Bomb," showing exclusive video footage of Iraq's bomb factories—revealing the whole truth about Iraq's nuclear program, raising questions about the role of the British Government, and international monitoring agencies.

The program opens with shots of a Scud missile landing on an allied base during the Gulf war and a parade of Iraqi weaponry, followed by comments from David Kay, the UN investigator who uncovered Iraq'secret weapons program after the Gulf war. Kay says: "They were probably 36-months away from having deliverable type of weapons that would have fit either their own Scud missiles or extended range Scuds, or in their high performance aircraft in small numbers. If the war had not intervened—as we sit here today in mid-1994, they would have at least have had crude nuclear devices, and probably their first deliverable packages would have coming on line."

Over extensive shots of Iraqi nuclear sites scattered throughout Iraq, and shots of various items of equipment Kay then says: "The major building where they were going to manufacture nuclear weapons, actually cast the uranium metal, cut it into shapes, put the high explosive around it, is one that could well have produced twenty nuclear weapons a year no problem. It was quite frankly better than most of the American facilities that do the same thing. A lot of the equipment was still there in crates, and it was really something that any lab in the West would be happy to have."

The report then shows exclusive video taken by the Iraqi's prior to the Gulf war, showing extensive shots of its (?Calutron) plant which used huge magnetic coils to extract the nuclear material, followed by comments from U.S Senate investigator Ken Timmerman who says: "We were on the verge of a nuclear catastrophe in Iraq and nobody was really aware of what was going on. One of the problems with nuclear proliferation is that you can never know with certainty exactly how far away a country such as Iraq is from the bomb. Our intelligence community does not know and they cannot know. The Iraqi's had a fantastic international procurement network. They were buying companies all over the world, but the very heart of it was in London, they would set up dummy companies to purchase on the open market high technology, machine-tools, nuclear materials, everything that they needed for their nuclear weapons program."

The report goes on to show footage of Iraqi factories at al-Tuwaitha, al-Atheer, and Badr, a list of British companies who unwittingly supplied equipment to Iraq, unaware it would be diverted to its secret bomb program, and a MI6 document warning of Iraq's nuclear capability. John Gordon, former head of the British Foreign Office Nuclear Department, then says: "I think Britain broke her obligations as a nuclear weapons state under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, because under Article One we are enjoined and we agree in no way directly or indirectly to help other countries acquire nuclear weapons, and in selling machine-tool equipment which we knew might well be used for making centrifuges for the illicit nuclear weapon enrichment program, it seemed to me we were quite clearly in breach of this obligation."

Over footage of UN inspections of the Iraqi bomb sites, Kimmerman concludes by saying: "A nuclear India, a nuclear Pakistan, a potentially nuclear Iran, potentially nuclear Iraq, a nuclear North Korea, perhaps South Korea, perhaps Japan as well armed with nuclear weapons. What is going to keep them from using those weapons? There are no security arrangements that could prevent the next war from being nuclear. There are other countries that are seeking nuclear weapons and they are doing the same things that the Iraqi's did, the same type of procurement, and we in our greed are making the same mistakes."

Leaders, Others Comment on Capture of al-Dirani

Radio Reports IDF Operation

TA2105043694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Last night, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] force operating deep in Lebanon's al-Biqa' region captured and brought to Israel Mustafa al-Dirani, the head of a radical terrorist organization which took navigator Ron Arad captive in 1986. Al-Dirani heads an organization called the Believer's Resistance. An IDF spokesman reported that all our forces returned safely to base.

A REUTERS reporter in al-Biqa' reported that an IDF force flew by helicopter to al-Dirani's village of (al-Qassanabah), which is located 10 kilometers from Zahlah. The commando force kidnapped al-Dirani from his home.

IDF representatives have informed the Arad family about the operation.

Peres Defends al-Dirani Kidnapping

TA2105074994 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0700 GMT 21 May 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by 'Ido Baum; place not given; from the weekly "In the Current Situation" program—live]

[Text] [Baum] Good morning, Foreign Minister Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Baum] Let us start with the clean and daring operation by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. What can you say about it?

[Peres] I certainly think the IDF is worthy of all praise for this very daring and accurate operation which snatched an extremely dangerous individual from the place he used as a staging point for a great number of attacks. This proves that the IDF is as powerful and effective as ever. In addition, this shows that we have not forgotten Ron Arad for one moment, on all levels. Israeli officials raise this issue, whether directly or indirectly, at almost every diplomatic meeting. This time, the IDF's long arm reached out. One must remember that Lebanon is a lawless country and there is no other way for us to protect our interests to the best of our capabilities.

[Baum] The families of the Israeli POW's and MIA's have indeed leveled many complaints against the government recently, especially for not presenting the issue of the POW's and MIA's as a condition in the talks with the PLO. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, is kidnapping these leaders really the only option?

[Peres] It is not the only way, but it is one of them. We have also been engaged in diplomatic efforts constantly and on an almost daily basis with regard to the issue of the POW's and MIA's. We have left no stone unturned in an effort to discover some traces or find out what happened to these people.

[Baum] What is the next, now that we are holding this individual?

[Peres] First of all, we want to find out who he turned Ron Arad over to. It is clear that he held Ron Arad prisoner for a reasonably long period. Our problem is to get an address. Who is holding Ron Arad and where? This operation was one of the milestones on the way to that address.

[Baum] After the assassination of 'Abbas al-Musawi [former Hizballah leader], katyushas were fired at Israel's northern settlements? Should these settlements prepare for such an attack now?

[Peres] I hope not.

[Baum] Thank you, Foreign Minister Peres.

Rabin Holds News Conference

TA2105183394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1717 GMT 21 May 94

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin with domestic correspondents at the Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] [Rabin] Two events have taken place: one on Friday [20 May] and one on Saturday. On Friday, there was a murderous event in which two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were killed at the Erez checkpoint after the IDF's redeployment—an event we will not be able to ignore. Therefore, the exit from Gaza has been closed until units of the Palestinian police are stationed 200-300 meters from the passages used by the Palestinians. The Palestinian police will be responsible for making sure that nobody crosses its checkpoint bearing weapons.

Moreover, the test of the Palestinians today is their takeover of Gaza and Jericho and their ability to demonstrate full control over those areas. If they do not prove it, it will be hard for us to continue to carry out the additional stages in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles we signed.

Last night, the IDF carried out an operation—an operation which the IDF, the State of Israel, and lovers of freedom and the fight against terror can be proud of. The operation was unanimously approved by all the members of the inner cabinet in a meeting on 19 May. Its purpose was to bring here the man who today heads a terrorist organization operating against us in the security zone—the Believers Resistance—and who held Ron Arad for at least two years and who, I hope, will definitely be able to give us information about the period during which he held him and perhaps about his condition later on.

The operation was conducted on the basis of our responsibility for the MIA's and the POW's. This time, the reasons I had for submitting my recommendation to the inner cabinet were not the same as those I had at the time when I recommended to the inner cabinet to bring Shaykh 'Ubayd to Israel. At that time, I had hoped that Shaykh 'Ubayd would serve as a bargaining chip in the negotiations. I no longer have any illusions that anybody can be used as a bargaining chip in the negotiations—certainly not Mustafa al-Dirani. Our goal was to further exhaust the chances of obtaining information about what happened in the past and the current fate of Ron Arad. This operation was also part of our fight against Lebanese terrorism directed at the security zone.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to the IDF, the intelligence community, the special units, the Air Force, the Intelligence Corps, and others who participated in an operation that once again proves the IDF's greatness as the Army responsible for the defense of Israel. To my regret, in the last six and a half years, the IDF has been carrying out policing duties and has been used as an Army imposing Israel's rule on another people. It has been carrying out tough policing duties which were unavoidable, escorting convoys, guarding roads, escorting school buses—missions which could not supply a full answer in the face of a people's uprising.

I would like to seize this occasion to point out that some right-wing extremists claim that the blood that is being shed is being shed for peace. There can be no grosser lie. The blood being shed is because of our rule over another foreign people. Peace is the only chance—not a certainty—of ever attaining an end to this bloodshed or definitely a significant reduction of it. As long as the occupation rule continues and as long as there is growing resistance to it by extreme elements, the murderers of Israelis and murderers of peace—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad—we will have to pay a bloody price. The IDF and the security branches will do their best to reduce it, but the bloody price is the price of ruling over another people that is rebelling against our rule—and this point must be understood. I am sorry that the IDF bears the tough mission of policing a large, rebelling population that is causing fatalities among civilians and soldiers. I hope that as the peace process continues, the IDF will go back to being a defense army rather than an army ruling over another people.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1's political correspondent Gadi Sukenik] Mr. Rabin, with all due respect to those who executed the operation, of course, could not such an operation have been carried out during the seven years that Ron Arad has been in captivity and to this day in order to extract information from people such as al-Dirani? To this day, is there any certainty that Ron Arad is alive?

[Rabin] As far as certainties go, I have no clear-cut proof that he is alive, and there is definitely no clear-cut proof that he is not alive. In the IDF, an MIA is any soldier or officer who is considered to be alive as long as it has not been proven otherwise.

As for the second part of your question, we have taken people in the past. This operation could have been carried out a few months ago, but it was put off because of intelligence considerations and chances of obtaining information. It was designed to be carried out in a specific area—in that area where the operation took place. Therefore, the timing chosen was the first possible time after another channel and hope of obtaining information through other means were blocked.

[Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television's Dov Gilhar] Mr. Rabin, what is the next stage? Assuming that Mustafa al-Dirani confirms that he handed Ron Arad over to the Iranians, is it now a question of international pressure on Tehran? What are the next moves?

[Rabin] At the moment, I do not want to say what we will find out in the course of his interrogation. Furthermore, I should say that the unit, which carried out the operation admirably—I would like to congratulate the chief of staff, the General Staff, the chief of intelligence, the Air Force commander, and particularly the soldiers who carried out the mission and the pilots who flew them—also brought with it a considerable amount of written material which will certainly throw light on some points. When I presented my recommendation to the inner cabinet two days ago and asked it to approve the operation, I said that we must exhaust any lead and any way that will offer us more information. I cannot assure you that we will get conclusive information about the whereabouts and condition of Ron Arad today. I can assure you that such operations will also be carried out in the future, if they are necessary and if possible, because we bear responsibility for all the MIA's and POW's whose fate has not yet been conclusively determined by Israel and the IDF.

[Unidentified Tel Aviv IDF Radio correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, this daring operation notwithstanding, did you take into account the possibility that the decision to carry it out could lead to a flare-up or perhaps a new war with Hizballah along the northern border?

[Rabin] We took everything into consideration. I recommended it, and it was planned by the IDF. When it was ready, I presented it to the inner cabinet with the realization that we must take risks for the sake of the heavy responsibility we bear for the fate of the POW's and MIA's. The problem is not to put up bumper stickers [calling for Arad's release] but to do the things that give us a better chance of getting more information, even if they entail risks and uncertainties.

[Unidentified Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el correspondent] Might this operation not affect the U.S. secretary of state's efforts to resume the peace talks?

[Rabin] I do not see why. After he returned from Damascus, I asked the secretary of state what he had

brought back as a result of President Clinton's appeal to President al-Asad in Geneva to take action to provide information, through the Americans, about the MIA's and the POW's—not just about Ron Arad, but about all of them; about those about whom we have no information, particularly Ron Arad and the MIA's from the al-Sultan Ya'qub battle: Baumel, Katz, and Feldman. The U.S. President again sent Dennis Ross to another meeting in Damascus, and we in fact received no additional information. The U.S. congressional delegation that visited Syria did not produce any trace of new information. Therefore, Syria has no right whatsoever to complain about it. It was not carried out on its soil. It is true, however, that it was carried out in an area controlled by the Syrian Army and where Syrian troops are deployed.

Baraq, Sagi Hold News Conference

TA2105194494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1732 GMT 21 May 94

[News conference by Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of staff, and Major General Uri Sagi, chief of the Intelligence Branch, with domestic correspondents at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] [Baraq] Last night, after 0200 [2300 GMT], an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit executed an operation in Qasr Naba in al-Biqa', not far from Zahlah. As you can see on the map, here is Beirut, here is Damascus, here is the Damascus-Beirut highway and Zahlah, (Rayyaq), and Qasr Naba to the north of it. This mountain range is called Mount Lebanon. Its altitude is the same as Mount Hermon, and it has steep cliffs at the bottom of which lie a number of villages. The force brought Mustafa al-Dirani, the leader of the Believers Resistance, on whose deeds Chief of Intelligence Uri Sagi will later elaborate, back from there.

The operation was conducted on very rough and steep terrain. The village is located at the bottom of a cliff, and the area is difficult for vehicles of any kind to traverse and for aircraft to land. The unit achieved absolute surprise, and within a few minutes, the operation in the building itself was over. A considerable number of weapons were found in the building, including a loaded gun at Mustafa al-Dirani's bedside, which he had no time to use, just as others had no such opportunity as a result of the element of surprise. Numerous documents of all kinds—not just written ones—were found. The unit, which was instructed to avoid hurting any other members of the family or other civilians in the village to the extent possible, even if they opened fire, succeeded in fulfilling this mission.

During the operation and while the unit was making its retreat, fire was opened from the adjacent apartment, inhabited by al-Dirani's brother. The fact that the village was awakened by the operation called for certain changes in the unit's exit from the village. They made their exit while shooting for the most part without taking aim. One of the officers was slightly injured in the thigh, apparently by a bullet or shrapnel. During the evacuation flight, a few rounds of antiaircraft fire may have been directed at the helicopters or at the roar of the helicopters near the Lebanese coast, north of Beirut.

The objectives of the operation were fully attained. Al-Dirani is in our hands, and we believe his interrogation will contribute to shedding light on the situation with regard to Ron Arad's whereabouts and perhaps to understanding what must be done to deal with Ron Arad's case in the future. No human lives were lost. The operation and its outcome contribute to some extent to the IDF's deterrent power and are an expression of our moral debt to Ron and to the principle of the IDF's modus operandi, whereby everything that can be done to bring back every POW and ascertain the fate of every MIA will be done, even at the expense of risky operations.

The operation was planned for many weeks, in fact months, and it relied on operational and intelligence abilities—not just in the field—which we have accumulated over the years. It was executed with the highest level of professional acumen and precision and while adapting to what materialized in the field. In such operations, a thin thread separates success from failure and its cost. I am glad that it ended the way it did.

I can only express my appreciation to the executing unit, a very select IDF unit; to the Air Force squadrons, particularly the Saar gunship helicopter squadrons, the cargo and other aircraft; to the intelligence community: to the Intelligence Branch and to its chief, Uri Sagi, whose unique contribution to this operation and its outcome goes beyond the formal duties of a chief of intelligence; and, of course, to the decisionmakers: to the inner cabinet, which decided on the operation based on our recommendation, and first and foremost to the prime minister and defense minister, who supported the planning of the operation and backed it all the way through.

I will now leave the floor to Uri. Later, if you want to pose some questions, we will be willing to answer a few of them.

[Sagi] Mustafa al-Dirani is the head of the Believers Resistance, a splinter group of the Amal organization. He headed Amal's terrorist apparatus until 1988 and, as part of his duties, was responsible for a large number of attacks on IDF soldiers, from the time of the Peace for Galilee Operation and until he retired from Amal in 1988. He is the founder of the Believers Resistance, an independent faction which has now merged with Hizballah. While it was an independent body, however, it carried out numerous attacks against IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers in south Lebanon. His involvement in holding Ron Arad hostage has long been known, at least to the intelligence community. We possess reliable information—which applied prior to the

operation and has been largely confirmed with al-Dirani's transfer to Israel—to the effect that Ron Arad was taken prisoner and held by Mustafa al-Dirani for a period of over two years and that he even conducted negotiations about him which may give us a lead as to the future and perhaps even the fate of Ron Arad.

Undoubtedly, the investigation is at its height. Both the investigation and the findings brought back by the unit will apparently provide us with some answers—I hope soon—to questions we could not answer prior to the operation. As said, the operation did not lead to any exceptional reactions that were not foreseen or predicted. Like the chief of staff, I can also tell you that no civilians or other people who were not meant to be hurt or be brought to Israeli territory were hurt. The repercussions of the operation will yet be examined, but there is no doubt that the fact that Mustafa al-Dirani is here may shed a great deal of light on the main question: Will we have more detailed intelligence about Ron Arad's fate?

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1's Alon Ben-David] Mr. Chief of Staff, the prime minister said a few minutes ago that al-Dirani's abduction was not meant to provide us with a bargaining chip for Ron Arad's release. Before we set out on this operation, did we have any information to the effect that this abduction will bring Ron Arad's return to Israel somewhat closer?

[Baraq] In my opinion, the main thing to be obtained is a better understanding on our part—as a result of what will emerge from the investigation and of a thorough analysis of the papers and other documents we seized there—as to what exactly happened to Ron Arad. It is the confirmed end of a thread leading to somebody who held him in his hands and apparently handed him over to the Iranians. Information and a better understanding may surface later as to how to act in the future in order to secure Ron Arad's return to Israel.

[Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television's Roni Daniyel] Mr. Chief of Staff, could you be more specific about the method of operation in the village last night?

[Baraq] I think it would not be right to detail the methods of operation on television. I cannot swear to you that this will be the last time we will have to use these operational tools, which are very important and sensitive and contribute a great deal to the IDF's abilities. I cannot tell you that this is the last time we will use them. Therefore, the better we manage to conceal and cloud the details of the operation, the better it will be.

[Daniyel] Mr. Chief of Intelligence, could you elaborate on what we learned about Ron Arad that we did not know before? Lebanese reports say that cassettes and documents were seized from his home.

[Sagi] I would consider it rash and perhaps even wrong to elaborate at this point on the additional findings, coming as they do on the heels of quite a considerable amount of information we had before we carried out the operation. I believe it would be correct to say that in addition to our assessment prior to the operation, we are certain about the responsibility for Ron Arad's fate during his captivity with Amal and later on when he was under the charge of Mustafa al-Dirani and the Believers Resistance. We apparently have and we will yet attain additional information about the ensuing period. In other words, in my opinion, in 1989 Ron Arad was handed over to other organizations. I believe it would not be right to elaborate on this point because of the intelligence sensitivity of the matter and the need to investigate further and confirm the findings in our possession. As noted, the nature of the operation shows that the information obtained through al-Dirani's capture and from other findings can really and considerably improve our knowledge.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el's Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe] Mustafa al-Dirani held Ron Arad as far back as six years ago. Did the operation not come too late?

[Sagi] I, of course, do not define the timing of operations. On this issue, I am subject to the chief of staff's decision and, to the best of my knowledge, he is subject to the decision of the defense minister and the government. Whenever the operational opportunity and intelligence need arise, I think there is a proper way to make our recommendation to the authoritative levels. If and when conditions enable it, the needs justify it, and the operation is approved, then it is carried out. I must say—fortunately, these are secret matters—this is not the first such operation and, I believe, neither will it be the last.

[Baraq] I would like to add that this operation had been prepared once before and was quite close to execution, but as a result of considerations related to the covert efforts for the release of Ron Arad, we decided not to execute it and to put it off for several months. Now the time looked right for its execution, and the operation was carried out.

[Unidentified Tel Aviv IDF Radio correspondent] Mr. Chief of Staff, did you take into consideration the possibility of a confrontation with the Syrians in the course of the operation?

[Baraq] The area in which the operation was carried out is controlled by the Syrian Army. Syrian troops are deployed in this area, which lies within the range of Syrian antiaircraft and ground missiles. Nevertheless, we built the operation in such a way as to reduce these risks to a minimum. I am glad that no such confrontation occurred and believe there is no reason for this issue—fighting for information and for ways to secure the release of an Israeli POW—to lead to any substantial friction with the Syrians.

Weizman Discusses Kidnapping

NC2305074594 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Israeli President Ezer Weizman has stated that the kidnapping of Mustafa al-Dirani demonstrates that Israel is doing its best for the sake of one of its soldiers. Israel will even step up its efforts in defense of the border area where army, security, and civilian personnel are deployed, Weizman added. He said: We will never abandon them because Israel is concerned with the security of this area and the fate of its inhabitants.

At the end of a visit to the border area to convey congratulations on 'Id al-Adha, President Weizman met the press. Present were the South Lebanese Army's [SLA] General Lahd, some of the area's key figures, Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq, the commander of the northern sector, and the commander of the Liaison Force. Weizman said that peace in the Middle East rests with Syria and there is a link connecting Damascus, Beirut, and Amman on this issue. Weizman stressed that conducting unilateral talks with Lebanon depends on the Syrian president. I hope President Hafiz al-Asad will understand that the time is ripe for him to change his views concerning peace, he added.

Before leaving the border area, Weizman held a 30-minute closed meeting with Gen. Lahd.

Netanyahu Lauds 'Elegant' Operation

TA2105093294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0700 GMT 21 May 94

[Telephone interview with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu by 'Ido Baum; place not given; from the weekly "In the Current Situation" program—live]

[Text] [Baum] Good morning Knesset Member Binyamin Netanyahu, head of the opposition.

[Netanyahu] Good morning.

[Baum] What is your reaction to last night's operation?

[Netanyahu] Well, you know I make no secret of my criticism of the government but in this case they, as well as the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commanders and soldiers, all deserve hearty praise for apparently carrying out what the late Hayim Bar-Lev [former chief of staff and minister who died last week] used to call a strong, swift, and elegant operation. I take my hat off to them.

[Baum] Some opposition members have claimed that the government is not doing enough to bring back the POW's and the MIA's. Perhaps the correct way to go about this is to really take direct action against Hizballah and not demand information from the PLO which apparently does not have any.

[Netanyahu] The steps taken should be comprehensive. The PLO definitely has information because 'Arafat gave the prime minister half of Ron Arad's dog tag. Therefore, we can demand valuable information from 'Arafat such as who handed him the dog tag and who holds its second half. However, I still think that we can exert certain pressure—from which the government is refraining—with regard to the mass release of prisoners, an issue I regard as problematic in the first place. If we are already going ahead with such a step then we definitely could at least extract more information and clues to help us locate our people. With regard to last night's operation, which may arouse international criticism, it is important to explain that Israel has the full right not only to follow the supreme Jewish doctrine of ransoming prisoners thus reassuring every IDF soldier that he will never be abandoned if taken prisoner by the enemy, but also to act against the kidnappers and to capture them whether for bargaining purposes or to extract information. This is something the IDF has done in the past not only in the case of Shaykh 'Ubayd [kidnapped from Lebanon in 1989]. This policy was also reflected in the kidnapping, or, more rightly, the capture of the five senior Syrian general staff officers while Syria was holding our pilots and POW's and refused to release them as part of a prisoner exchange as mandated by the Geneva Conventions. We have carried out such operations. I myself participated in two unsuccessful missions. My brother, Yoni, directly commanded the operation in which the Syrian officers were captured and four or five months later our prisoners were returned as part of a prisoner exchange. Therefore, Israel has all the right to act whether for information or bargaining purposes as part of its efforts to bring back our POW's and MIA's.

[Baum] Shaykh 'Ubayd was kidnapped when the unity government was in power with Yitzhaq Shamir as prime minister and Yitzhaq Rabin as defense minister. So far, however, his kidnapping has not helped especially. The POW's and MIA's have not been returned. The question is whether or not the risks entailed in such an operation outweigh the possible benefits? Are these operations justified?

[Netanyahu] First of all, there are no guarantees. I do not deny the fact that there is no way of knowing. When we kidnapped those Syrian officers no one could state with certainty that the outcome would be positive or that there would be no negative ramifications. This danger always exists, in this case as well. However, I definitely have full confidence in the government's decision on this matter because every country has the right to act against an organization of murderers and kidnappers which has information, and perhaps even more, in order to achieve the basic, humanitarian goal of bringing its prisoners back home. That is acceptable within all international frameworks and we must insist on this matter, not only on the international but also on the domestic level. Whatever the price, it is more important that every IDF soldier sent to the battlefield knows with full certainty that Israel will do the maximum to bring him back home.

[Baum] Thank you, opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu.

Sharon, Tzomet Praise Operation

TA2105153394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Likud Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon congratulated the Army and defense minister [for the operation in which Mustafa al-Dirani was abducted]. He hoped it would be the start of energetic action by which Israel would amass a bank of prisoners that eventually would ease the release of Ron Arad and the missing IDF [Israel Defense Forces] men.

The Tzomet party congratulated the IDF. Tzomet Chairman Refa'el Eytan said it was the only method the Arabs understood, and such actions should be continued with determination and cunning.

The chairman of the Meretz faction in the Knesset, Ran Kohen, praised the Army for its precise and perfect execution of the abduction. Normally he disapproves of carrying off people, but this time it was justified in view of the callousness and wickedness of the jailers of Israeli prisoners.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 21 May adds: "The Moledet faction praised the IDF for the perfect execution of the operation."]

Cabinet Praises al-Dirani Operation

TA2205094294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] This morning the cabinet heard a thorough briefing on the abduction of Mustafa al-Dirani, and the ministers praised the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the chief of staff on the operation. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that the ministers heard briefings on the situation in Gaza and Jericho, mainly by the coordinator of government activities in the territories. It was reported that unless funds are received in these areas, chiefly for the Palestinian police, the situation there will deteriorate.

Prime Minister Rabin reiterated his criticism of 'Arafat's call for a jihad to free Jerusalem, and once again rejected 'Arafat's explanation. Foreign Minister Peres was more moderate in his remarks on the issue. The cabinet is currently dealing with the housing problem.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0920 GMT on 22 May carries a similar report, live from the Prime Minister's Office by political correspondent Udi Segal, which adds: "Ministers Shetrit and Tzaban noted the genocide taking place in Rwanda. The cabinet decided to express its shock in view of the murders in Africa. Foreign Minister Peres said he would examine the possibility of providing humanitarian aid to Rwanda."]

Aim of Operation Reported

TA2105083094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0700 GMT 21 May 94

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[Text] Israel hopes that last night's operation will shed a little light on the fate of captive navigator Ron Arad. According to Israeli intelligence data, the last person known with certainty to have held Arad prisoner was Mustafa al-Dirani.

In the assessment of Israeli officials, al-Dirani turned the navigator over to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards in exchange for money. The captive navigator's fate has been unknown ever since and no information has been received on this matter. In this sense, the aim of last night's kidnapping operation was to glean more information that could help reveal Ron Arad's location. Al-Dirani was captured by a commando force for interrogation purposes and in the future he could conceivably serve as a bargaining chip.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin decided to approve the operation with the recommendation of Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq, the head of the Shin Bet, and other senior security officials. On Thursday [19 May], the matter was brought before the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs. The ministers were asked to maintain total secrecy. Not all the cabinet ministers knew about the operation, even after it had taken place this morning.

A senior political source said that if al-Dirani's interrogation corroborated the information Israel already possessed according to which Ron Arad had been turned over to the Revolutionary Guards, Iran would no longer be able to deny any connection to this affair.

Approximately one month ago, in the framework of a conference in Bucharest, I asked Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati why Iran continued to hold navigator Ron Arad prisoner?

[Begin recording] [Segal, in English] Why is your country, Iran, still holding the Israeli POW Ron Arad?

[Velayati, in English] I do not know how much this is related to the present discussion that we have, but I catagorically deny that there is any prisoner from Israel in Iran.

Jerusalem says that last night's operation proves to the Israeli people and all the families that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the government continue their efforts. The soldiers risked their lives and carried out a raid against a tough target hundreds of kilometers from Israel in a difficult area under Syrian control north of the Beirut-Damascus road. Officials in Jerusalem said that this proved that Israel was doing everything to help its soldiers held captive behind enemy lines.

Cabinet Hears Difficulties Palestinian Police Face

TA2205155894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] The cabinet was given a detailed report on the commando operation [to abduct Mustafa al-Dirani], the reasons for it, and its planning. Speaking on behalf of the cabinet, Prime Minister Rabin praised the defense forces and the chief of staff. On another issue, security officials told the cabinet the Palestinian police force and administration face serious problems in establishing their authority. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Now that the euphoria surrounding the arrival of the Palestinian police is over, the new leadership has to cope with the drab reality of raising funds to pay salaries, a security official told the cabinet. There is a shortage of trained personnel, weapons, food, vehicles, and above all money to pay the salaries, the official said. Nabil Sha'th brought a few hundred thousands dollars when he made a brief visit to the Gaza Strip last week. Arab mayors have been holding fund-raising drives, and Israel is paying the salaries of 37,000 Civil Administration employees up to the end of this month. But Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said the money contributed so far by the donor countries is much less than what they promised. In the ruling council for the autonomy, portfolios have not yet been distributed, and this is making it more difficult to organize the new administration. The Palestinian police have called on the population not to carry arms in the streets. In some parts of the Gaza Strip the police have begun planning the collection of weapons from the population. But Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has warned that it will not hand in its weapons, and the Popular Front of George Habash says it will not give up its weapons so long as Israeli soldiers or settlers are present anywhere in the territories.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin again warned that Israel expects the Palestinian police to make sure that armed terrorists do not enter Israel. So long as the security problem is not solved the total closure of the Gaza Strip will continue, Rabin warned.

Minister of Commerce and Industry Mikha Harish said clearly the PLO has an interest in showing that it can impose order in Gaza and Jericho, and Israel is prepared to wait for a while:

[Harish] This process will be tested in a few weeks. If there is going to be a serious progress in a few weeks then we know that we are in the right track.

[Katzenell] If not?

[Harish] If not, then the agreement is collapsing, and they are aware of that.

[Katzenell] The cabinet was told that the Fatah Hawks and other local Palestinians who were on the wanted list are disappointed, because they have not been incorporated in the new police force or administration. Former policemen who resigned at the beginning of the intifadah have not been reenlisted, and feel they have been discriminated against relative to the newcomers from the diaspora. [end recording]

Further 'Arafat Comments in Johannesburg Released

TA2205114694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] The address at the Johannesburg mosque by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat causes doubt regarding his intention to keep the agreement with Israel. A tape of his address contains remarks in which he says that the fate of the agreement signed with Israel will be similar to that of the agreement Prophet Muhammad signed with the Quiraish Tribe. Professor Moshe Sharon, an expert on the history of Islam, explains that Muhammad signed a nonbelligerency agreement with the tribe which was in control of Mecca. But two years later he violated the agreement, conquered Mecca, and killed the leaders of the tribe. The segment of the tape was given to our correspondent Gil Litman.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 22 May carries a similar report by Gil Litman that includes the following recorded passage in English from the address by 'Arafat: "And I am sure, sooner or later, we will pray in Jerusalem together. This agreement, I am not considering it more than the agreement which had been signed between our Prophet Muhammad and Quiraish." Prof. Sharon says in the report that "this set a legal Muslim precedent, according to which you sign an agreement with the enemy when it suits you, and you violate it when you can. That is to say: Any agreement between Muslims and non-Muslims can be violated when it is convenient for the Muslim party."

[Quoting further from the recording, Litman says that 'Arafat made the following remark: "There is no permanent state named Israel."]

Rabin Demands New 'Arafat Commitment, Freezes Talks

TA2305091294 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 May 94 pp 6, 7

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is demanding that Yasir 'Arafat again pledge, in writing, to keep the agreement the parties signed in Cairo and meet all the undertakings he assumed in the Declaration of Principles and the agreement between Israel and the PLO on their mutual recognition .

Rabin instructed Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq to contact Nabil Sha'th in Cairo and ask that 'Arafat clarify the remarks he made in Johannesburg several days ago. 'Arafat had said that he does not intend to

honor the agreement, following the example of Prophet Muhammad in the agreement he made with the Quiraish Tribe.

'Arafat's remarks were aired on Qol Yisra'el yesterday and caused great anger at the prime minister's bureau. [passage omitted]

Coming out of yesterday's cabinet session, Israeli ministers expressed concern over the situation in the Palestinian self-administration.

Minister Amnon Rubinstein expressed the hope that the PLO leader will find the time to deal with the important issues and will stop his globe-trotting in order to deal with the self-rule.

Minister Yosi Sarid spoke in the Palestinians' behalf, saying that one cannot expect them to seize control of the security situation in the Gaza Strip, especially in view of the fact that Israel did not manage to control the events there in its 27 years of rule.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 23 May carries a report on page 2 by Hemi Shalev and Shefi Gabay, adding: "Israel has decided to freeze the next stage of the peace talks with the Palestinians until the situation in the Gaza Strip stabilizes and until there is proof that the Palestinians are able to handle security matters in the areas under their control. This was reported by senior political sources in Jerusalem last night." The report adds, however, that government officials "are impressed by the Palestinian commanders' seriousness and by what appears to be an attempt on their part to deal with the centers of terror."]

After the session, cabinet ministers added that Prime Minister Rabin's remark that the murder of Israelis in the territories is the result of the Israeli occupation is a very extreme utterance and has never been said before by any Israeli prime minister.

In other words, the ministers were amazed by the remark and said they would never even consider making such a sweeping statement.

Minister Shim'on Shetrit said that the Israelis who are still being hurt by Palestinians are neither the victims of peace nor the victims of Israel's rule over a foreign nation; rather, they are the victims of the PLO's and 'Arafat's failure to fulfill their commitments and the agreement they had signed.

Rabin Announces Delay in Second Stage of Talks

TA2305121894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he will demand from Yasir 'Arafat to reaffirm in writing his commitment to the peace agreement signed earlier this month. 'Oded Ben-'Ami, the prime minister's spokesman, said that 'Arafat's speech in Johannesburg casts doubts on his sincerity with regard to the peace agreement. Ben-'Ami noted that Israel will put off the negotiations on the second stage of the agreement with the Palestinians until the PLO consolidates its rule in Gaza and Jericho.

In response, PLO member Jamil al-Tarifi said that any delay in the implementation of the next stage of the autonomy will constitute a deviation from the agreement.

Sarid: 'Arafat Remarks Created 'Crisis of Confidence'

TA2305103194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Environment Minister Yosi Sarid has warned that if Yasir 'Arafat does not retract his remarks on honoring agreements, Israel will not abide by the accord. Sarid, who has been closely involved in the autonomy negotiations, says that 'Arafat's statements in the Johannesburg mosque earlier this month on signing agreements has created a crisis of confidence. The PLO leader, Sarid said, must declare his statements there null and void and reaffirm his total commitment to the peace process, in particular his support for a determined and open fight against terror. The environment minister was interviewed by Qol Yisra'el reporter Shulamit Schmerling during a visit to Haifa.

Peres Leaves for U.S., South American Tour

TA2305044894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has left for an extended visit to the United States and South America. During his stay in Washington, he will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Vice President Al Gore. He will also reportedly try to encourage the U.S. and other nations to quickly speed up the funding of the Palestinian police force in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Peres will later travel to Mexico, Colombia, and Chile. He is due to return to Israel on June 1st.

Editorial Says Djerejian Resignation Justified

TA2205112694 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 May 94 p 9

[Editorial: "Ed for the Prosecution"]

[Text] The resignation of U.S. Ambassador to Israel Edward Djerejian is an expression of no confidence resounding like a slap in the faces of President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The Clinton administration's foreign policy is currently under attack from all directions, mainly the Republican direction. Key officials of the previous administration—President Bush, Defense Secretary Cheney, and Secretary of State Baker—restrained themselves for several months. Nevertheless, with Clinton entering his second year in office and with the election season approaching—

congressional elections this year and presidential elections soon—these former officials placed themselves at the spearhead of the onslaught on Clinton's and Christopher's hesitant and stuttering international conduct, from Korea, to Haiti, to Bosnia.

Djerejian's notice that he is abandoning his post only four months after assuming it is a double blow. First, because he did not opt for a fat salary but is going to work for Christopher's negative image—James Baker. Second, because his resignation makes one of the few areas in the world that Clinton and his aides portray as an American success—the Arab-Israeli peace process—look like a failure.

The intrigues among the members of the team that was supposed to help Clinton and Christopher promote the process have been clearly visible for a long time. Djerejian, a former ambassador in Damascus and a Baker loyalist ever since he served as White House deputy spokesman for foreign affairs in the Reagan administration, was sidetracked despite the fact that Christopher kept him on as assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs. Dennis Ross, another aide to Baker during Bush's presidential campaign and at the State Department, survived and became closer to Christopher, at the expense of Djerejian and his no-less-competent successor Robert Pelletreau. Pelletreau decided to settle for and focus on the other half of his area of responsibility—the Persian Gulf. Djerejian, who spent only four months in office here, decided that, since Christopher and Ross compartmentalized him out of the Israel-Syria track—the main track of the process and his area of expertise—there was no point in him staying on here.

The resignation is regrettable because the Americans would have done better to give up on Christopher and his "peace team" than on Djerejian. The continuing weakness of the Tel Aviv Embassy started after the important years of Sam Lewis and Tom Pickering. The Bush administration sent the two Williams—Brown and Harrop—here. Clinton sent Brown as acting ambassador once again, and eventually sent Djerejian, but did not use him properly. Djerejian joins a list of senior defense and foreign affairs officials from the Clinton administration who resigned or were fired with a loud slam of the door: Deputy Secretary of State Wharton, Defense Secretary Aspin, defense secretary designate Inman, and Presidential Envoy to Haiti Pezzullo.

The general impression is one of a crumbling administration. It is an U.S. problem, but it is also a global and mainly a regional problem because without U.S. encouragement, the peace process will be delayed for several more crucial months. It seems that Djerejian chose not to be on the failing team. This, however, is not necessarily the end of his involvement in foreign affairs in general and Israel-Arab affairs in particular: Should the Republicans return to power and Baker get a say on policies and appointments, it is reasonable to assume that Djerejian may return to a yet higher position at the State Department or on the National Security Council.

King, Delegation Return From Damascus Visit

JN2005183994 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 May 94

[From the "60 Minutes" program]

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and his accompanying delegation returned to the homeland this evening following a short visit to the Syrian Arab Republic, during which he met with his brother, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Paper Analyzes Visit

JN2105095694 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 May 94 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "'Id-al-Adha and the Extraordinary Challenges"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's visit to fraternal Syria yesterday, on the eve of the first day of the blessed 'Id al-Adha, is another effort that can be added to his majesty's work to reactivate Arab solidarity and bolster coordination and consultation between the two fraternal countries regarding all issues of joint interest, particularly the latest developments in the peace process. The two sides agreed on the need to adopt a unified Arab stand toward the peace talks and against the continuous Israeli procrastination in responding to the requirements of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace acceptable to coming generations.

Israel has again proved its evasive policy toward the peace process by foiling U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent tour of the region as part of its attempts to conclude separate deals with each Arab party. This requires a unified Arab stand based on true and serious coordination. Perhaps, the Amman- Damascus line is the basic pillar of this path.

In the current difficult circumstances, our Arab nation needs, at least, a minimum level of solidarity to heal wounds and to turn a new leaf in order to confront huge challenges. These challenges are embodied by the peace process, the bloody and regrettable fighting among the brothers in Yemen which has been going on for more than two weeks, the unjust embargo clamped on fraternal Iraq which has lost all its justifications, and the embargo on fraternal Libya. Many other issues and problems affecting Arabs and Muslims also require a courageous stand.

The blessed 'Id al-Adha is the best opportunity to reexamine inter-Arab relations, to show tolerance, to heal wounds, and to proceed toward a better future that restores the nation to its position and pride. While calling for making 'Id al-Adha a true 'Id for the entire nation so it can close ranks, we would like to remember that His Majesty King Husayn has always been persistent in his initiatives and efforts to settle and discard Arab differences and return life to fraternal relations.

King, Queen Nur Leave for UK on Private Visit

JN2105103094 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0900 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur left Amman before noon today on a several-day private visit to the United Kingdom. His majesty was seen off at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad, the king's personal representative; Princess Taghrid; Prince 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn; and Prince Ghazi Bin-Muhammad. Also present at the airport to bid farewell to his majesty the king were the prime minister, speakers of both Houses of parliament, the chief chamberlain, and top civilian and Army officials.

Meanwhile, His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad, the king's personal representative, took the constitutional oath before his majesty and in the presence of Cabinet members as regent during his majesty's absence abroad.

His majesty the king is accompanied by Princess Basmah and the chief of the Royal Court al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir.

Country Voices Support for 'Yemeni Legitimacy'

JN2205103994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Jordan today reiterated its support for Yemeni legitimacy and the unity of the Yemeni people, refusing, at the same time, to clearly condemn Aden's decision yesterday to establish an independent state in the south.

Government-run Jordanian radio and television have been reporting, without comment, the views of northerners and southerners. However, official Jordanian media have recently referred to the southerners as the separatist forces, the description used by the northerners, who are referred to as the government forces.

Reaction to al-Dirani Seizure Reported

'Military Source' Announces Raid

NC2105054694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0520 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] A military source made the following statement this morning:

At 0200 today, an Israeli enemy commando force, using two helicopters, kidnapped resistance official al-Haj Mustafa al-Dirani from his house in Qasr Naba village. The Israeli force used the road separating Kasrawan and al-Biqa' to carry out its action.

It should be recalled that Israeli helicopters were monitored flying at high altitude last night. The Lebanese army and Syrian forces were placed on alert. Patrols pursued the Israeli commando force in Qasr Naba and al-Furzul. Ground defenses opened fired at the helicopters as they were retreating toward the sea.

This operation is part of the enemy's piracy and continued violations of international laws and norms.

Al-Dirani's Brother Details Assault

NC2105124294 Paris AFP in English 1149 GMT 21 May 94

[By Selim Yassine]

[Text] Qasr Naba, Lebanon, May 21 (AFP)—Israeli commandos met with no resistance as they kidnapped a Moslem fundamentalist guerrilla chief in a slick predawn raid on his home on Saturday [21 May], his brother said.

"There were around 25 men all dressed in Israeli military uniform," said Subhi al-Dirani, the brother of Mustafa al-Dirani who was snatched by the helicopter-borne commandos from his home in Syrian-controlled eastern Lebanon. "They did not meet with any resistance when they grabbed Mustafa in front of his family," and no one was hurt, he said.

Mustafa al-Dirani, 46, is held responsible by Israel for the capture of airman Ron Arad whose plane was shot down over south Lebanon in 1986. The abduction is seen as a bargaining chip in the release of the pilot.

"No one in the village heard the helicopters which brought the commandos. The soldiers stormed the house out of nowhere and immediately went into the bedroom where my brother and his wife were sleeping," Subhi al-Dirani said.

"They handcuffed me with cuffs made in England and pointed their guns at my father, my sister-in-law and her three children, grabbed my brother and fled on foot. The whole thing lasted 10 minutes," the 26-year-old added.

He said the commandos spoke in Hebrew with each other "but they spoke to us in Arabic."

Lebanese army troops threw a security cordon around the Niha hills, which overlook Qasr Naba, five kilometers (three miles) away where the two helicopters used by the commandos had landed.

Witnesses said the commandos drove by jeep from the hill to al-Dirani's house, which is located on the edge of the village, and drove back to the waiting choppers. Some villagers said they had seen an exchange of light signals before the operation, suggesting that the commandos had accomplices inside the village who gave them the all clear.

Shams al-Din Condemns 'Piracy'

NC2105083194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, has strongly condemned the Israeli act of piracy against the Qasr Naba village in al-Biqa' and the abduction of al-Haj Mustafa al-Dirani. He said this act reflects the true face of Zionist terrorism.

Shaykh Shams al-Din said: Israel committed this unjustified aggression at a time when Lebanon is regaining its stability and rebuilding its institutions. He stressed that the Israeli act represents a blatant violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as all international norms and laws. This step, Shaykh Shams al-Din said, exposes Israel's false claims during the negotiations and its schemes against Lebanon and its independence.

In his statement, Shaykh Shams al-Din said: We urge the United Nations, the Security Council, and the human rights organizations to act promptly to end such bestial attacks and insure the release of al-Haj al-Dirani.

Arad Said 'Sold' to Iranian Guards

NC2105085894 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0830 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Our political correspondent reports that Mustafa al-Dirani sold Israeli navigator Ron Arad to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards for $300,000 in 1989.

REUTER cites Husayn al-Musawi [Islamic Amal Movement leader] as saying that the abduction of al-Haj Mustafa al-Dirani will not make them deviate from the course of struggle against the Israeli enemy.

Al-Musawi: 'Bargaining' Ploy Doomed

NC2105092294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] In a statement to REUTER today, Husayn al-Musawi, a Hizballah leader, confirmed the report on the abduction of al-Haj Mustafa al-Dirani. He said that this Israeli operation is part of the ongoing fighting between Hizballah and Israel. Al-Musawi added that Israel wants

to use al-Dirani as a bargaining chip to insure the release of navigator Ron Arad. But this Israeli attempt will not succeed, he added.

Mufti Stresses Resisting Occupation

NC2105153594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] On the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha, spiritual leaders delivered several sermons today. They explained the significance of the 'Id and stressed the need for unity and adherence to national principles.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan, deputy chairman of the Higher Shiite Islamic Council and chief Ja'farite mufti, called for national unity to confront conspiracies. He stressed the importance of resistance as long as the Israeli occupation continues. He said: The south and Western al-Biqa' continue to be the chief concern, and suffering is growing as a result of the Israeli acts of aggression, which burn the land, threaten the infrastructure, and displace the people. This is a recording of an excerpt from Mufti Qabalan's speech:

[Begin recording] What kind of solutions does Israel want? It wants us to surrender. It is asking us for the Israeli corporal [navigator Ron Arad], so why do we not ask it for Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd? It is asking us for the corpses of the Israeli soldiers, so why do we not ask it for our live detainees in its prisons? It is demanding that we stop resistance, so why do we not demand that it withdraw from the south and Western al-Biqa'? Israel wants everything, and if it wants to give something it does so through a dispenser, drop by drop. Therefore, we tell the kin and brothers that we have to demonstrate solidarity and deal with each other honestly, sincerely, amicably, and respectfully. We tell them to avoid hatred and tension. Israel does not differentiate between a fighter and a non-fighter, between the inhabitants of the border strip and the inhabitants of al-Biqa', or between northerners and southerners. It views every Arab and Muslim as an enemy that must be annihilated. [end recording]

Hizballah Issues Statement

NC2105164894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Hizballah has issued a statement on the crime involving the kidnapping of Hajj Mustafa al-Dirani. The statement said: With the dawning of the blessed 'Id al-Adha and while the Muslims were celebrating the feast of sacrifice, official international and Zionist terrorism was chasing the Lebanese inside their villages and homes within the view and hearing of the world public and was committing against them acts of piracy and kidnapping. This proves the criminal nature of the Jews, who do not hesitate to commit the ugliest crimes, violate the most sacred values, kill women and children, and kidnap peaceful civilians.

Today the Zionist entity committed a new crime added to its list of abominable crimes and aggressive acts, including the acts of kidnapping and piracy with which its history is replete.

The statement added: This ugly crime is the clearest picture and the most eloquent expression of the official terrorism exercised by the Zionist entity backed by the global arrogant forces, above all the United States.

The crime was committed after an official decision was issued by the enemy government, which pursues terrorism as a firm policy in dealing with the peoples of this region. This proves the criminal nature of the Zionist entity and the occupying Jews, who are supported by the global arrogant forces.

The statement continued: This crime has proved that there is no place in Lebanon safe from the Zionist danger, which is threatening everyone. This means we must consider all of Lebanon as a confrontational area in which our people must maintain constant resistance against the Jewish threat.

Fadlallah Denounces 'Aggression'

NC2105165894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has denounced the Israeli piracy, saying: Israeli aggressive acts are being repeated every day against Lebanon without the United States or Europe raising their voices against Israel and asking it to stop its aggression against peaceful people.

Israel says the resistance is the cause of its operations. However, we ask Israel: If the resistance is the cause, why don't you confront the resistance fighters in their positions?

He added: The enemy derives its freedom from our weakness and differences. It also derives its freedom from the support of global arrogant forces.

Al-Tufayli Blames Government

NC2105163194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Hizballah vehicles roamed the streets of Western Ba'labakk and the international highway using loudspeakers to condemn the Israeli operation and global arrogance.

A demonstration was staged in Brital to condemn the operation. [Former Hizballah Secretary General] Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli addressed the demonstrators, lambasting the Lebanese Government and holding it responsible.

Acting Mufti Decries Operation

NC2205115994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] His Eminence Acting Mufti Shaykh Muhammad Rashid Qabbani has denounced as piracy Israel's kidnapping of al-Hajj Mustafa al-Dirani, a Lebanese national resistance official, from his house in Qasr Naba and carting him off to occupied Palestine.

His eminence said it is high time for the Arab nation to wake up, unify its ranks, and curb Israel's continued acts of piracy. He said that the unity of objectives, thoughts, stances, and decisions; the rallying of all potentials and energies; and joint planning to attain the objective of our nation to salvage its honor and regain its rights and glory represent the sole way toward salvation.

Shaykh Qabban add: This is a frank call for confronting Israel's designs, which is lying in wait for our Arab nation.

Fundamentalists Threaten Reprisal

NC2205155494 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] REUTER cites fundamentalist officials in Beirut as saying that members of their group are preparing to launch a spectacular operation against the Israelis to avenge the kidnapping of Mustafa al-Dirani, military official in charge of the so-called Believers Group, in al-Biqa' at dawn yesterday.

Minister Urges Unity Against Israel

NC2205165394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Commenting on the abduction of al-Hajj Mustafa al-Dirani, Housing and Cooperatives Minister Mahmud Abu Hamdan has condemned the Zionist act of piracy and urged unity against the Israeli crimes. He said the Israeli operation proves that no region in Lebanon is safe from the Israeli danger. He said the people must remain united to confront Israel and support resistance to serve the objectives of liberation. He said Israeli terrorism is nothing new and the latest operation in Qasr Naba proves that Israel is still the same and its talk of peace is a worthless illusion.

Red Cross Asks To See al-Dirani

NC2305073094 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has officially protested the abduction of al-Hajj Mustafa al-Dirani, a leader of the faithful resistance, from his house in Qasr Naba in al-Biqa'.

In its statement, the ICRC said it has asked to see al-Dirani but that Israel has declined to respond.

Prime Minister Leaves Beirut for Paris

NC2105171694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left Beirut for Paris this morning to spend the 'Id al-Adha holiday with his family.

Militiamen Foresee 'Partial' Israeli Withdrawal

NC2305100194 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 17 May 94 p 6

[Report by Tariq Abu-Hamdan: "Eastern Sector"]

[Excerpts] According to reports being disseminated by Lahdist militia circles, the Israeli army will probably carry out a limited withdrawal from the areas of Hasbayya and Jazzin and retreat to the area controlled by the militia during the reign of former militia Commander Sa'd Haddad and that was called "Free Lebanon" before the Israeli invasion in 1982.

Pro-Israel militia men report that the occupation army intends to withdraw from Hasbayya and Jazzin, where the Israeli army has been the target of fierce resistance attacks. This step will enable the Israeli army to keep away from the Hizballah-controlled combat line extending between Iqlim al-Tuffah and Western al-Biqa'. The Israeli army will create a 3-8 km wide buffer zone that will separate the expected Israel withdrawal point and the resistance positions. Israel's objective behind this step is to cancel the combat line, explore whether the Lebanese Army can fill the vacuum should withdrawal occur, and control security in the area. It will also demonstrate Israel's good intentions during the upcoming peaceful negotiations and exploit it on the international level.

Observers believe that the Israeli occupation army's withdrawal from Kawkaba, which overlooks the western al-Biqa' and the liberated area in Hasbayya, is a basic step toward the Israeli withdrawal from the areas of Hasbayya and Jazzin and toward placing them under the full control of the Lahdist militia. The Lahdist militia has become more convinced that the Israeli occupation army is using it as a buffer to protect its presence inside the Lebanese territory. The observers also believe that the Israeli army views the militia as a burden restricting its freedom of options in the ongoing negotiations, especially as the militia cannot be legitimized or accepted on the Lebanese official and popular stance. Lebanon cannot even bargain over this militia's being a traitor and collaborating with the enemy. Accordingly, this issue plays a major role in the continuing desertion of many militia members.

Security sources affirm that the Lebanese army is fully prepared to fill any vacuum that might occur because of a sudden Israeli withdrawal. [passage omitted]

The security sources do not rule out that Israel might effect its partial withdrawal during the next three months, especially if a tangible progress is made on the

issue of negotiations concerning what is called "Hasbayya and Jazzin First." Could this Israeli option be accepted by Lebanon?

Judge Charges Ja'ja' with Church Bombing

NC2005173294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Chief Public Prosecutor Judge Munif 'Uwaydat has charged Samir Ja'ja', commander of the dissolved Lebanese Forces Party, with the bombing of the Sayyidat al-Najat church in Zuq Mikha'il. Justice Joseph Furayhah, the judicial investigator of this crime, forwarded the file of the interrogation of Ja'ja' to the Public Prosecutor's office, and will later hear his testimony when Ja'ja is a defendant.

Judge Furayhah heard the testimony of retired Major Fu'ad Malik, the general commissioner of the dissolved Lebanese Forces Party, in his capacity as a witness in other cases.

Israeli Seizure of al-Dirani 'Act of Piracy'

JN2105165194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 May 94

[Excerpt] Beirut—A Lebanese military source announced that Israel has committed a new act of piracy against Lebanon.

The source said an Israeli commando force, using two helicopters, kidnapped Hajj Mustafa al-Dirani, a Lebanese national resistance official, from his house in Qasr Naba at 0200 today after this force infiltrated from the area between Jabal Kasrawan and al-Biqa'. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad's Talks With King Husayn Reported

Christopher's Tour Assessed

JN2005143894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic held a meeting this afternoon. The meeting was attended by delegations from both sides.

During the meeting, there was an exchange of views on various Arab and international issues of common concern, as well as the latest developments, especially with regard to the peace process. The two sides stressed the continuation of coordination and consultation at this critical time in the life of the nation.

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad briefed his brother, His Majesty King Husayn, on his assessment of the U.S. secretary of state's recent tour of the region to advance the peace process, especially on the Syrian-Israeli track. The two sides also agreed on the need to adopt a unified Arab position toward the peace talks in order to advance the peace process until a just and comprehensive peace is achieved, one that is accepted and safeguarded by future generations.

The two sides also discussed the situation in fraternal Yemen, stressing the need to safeguard Yemen's territorial integrity. They also discussed bilateral relations and ways of enhancing them to achieve the highest levels of cooperation and coordination.

The meeting was attended for the Jordanian side by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the prime minister; al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; and Marwan al-Qasim, political adviser to his majesty the king. Attending for the Syrian side were 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice presidents; Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the prime minister; Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister; and Wahib Fadil, the minister of state for presidential affairs.

Afterward, His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad held a closed session.

King's Agenda Detailed

JN2005190194 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in 1730 GMT 20 May 94

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan arrived in Damascus at 1230 today. [passage omitted]

After arriving at the People's Palace, President Hafiz al-Asad and His Majesty King Husayn held a meeting, which was attended on the Syrian side by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Presidential Affairs Minister Wahib Fadil. On the Jordanian side, the meeting was attended by his majesty's delegation.

This meeting was followed by a closed meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and His Majesty King Husayn, interrupted by a dinner banquet given by President Hafiz al-Asad. It was attended by the two sides' delegations, as well as Rashid Akhtarini, deputy prime minister for services affairs, Dr. Muhammad Harbah, minister of interior affairs, and Dr. Muhammad Salman, the minister of information.

Following the luncheon, the president and his majesty the king held a second closed meeting. Talks centered on the situation in the Arab arena, particularly in Yemen. The two sides voiced deep regret over the fighting raging there and expressed hope that the Yemeni brothers would solve problems through dialogue rather than fighting.

The talks also touched on the peace process, current contacts connected with this process, and the Israeli obstacles to prevent the attainment of the goal of this process, namely, a just and comprehensive peace based on the principle of land for peace and the implementation of UN resolutions. They agreed to continue contacts and coordination among the Arab sides in the peace process to reach a comprehensive peace. They also discussed issues of common interest. His Majesty King Husayn and his delegation left Damascus at 1815 today. He was seen off at the airport by President Hafiz al-Asad.

Commentary on Talks, Coordination

JN2105170494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1155 GMT 21 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: On the eve of the blessed 'Id al-Adha, President Hafiz al-Asad and King Husayn held a comprehensive evaluation of the developments in the peace process and the obstacles Israel has placed in the way of a just and comprehensive solution to the crisis in the region. The two Arab leaders agreed to continue bilateral consultations and coordination on positions.

If we recall the recent past, we see that Jordan was subjected to intense pressure to sign a separate agreement with Israel. Jordan refused such an agreement and emphasized the continuation of its coordination with the brothers, especially Syria.

Jordanian officials revealed that Israel wants to sign a peace agreement with Jordan without withdrawing from the occupied Jordanian territories in return.

Likewise, sisterly Lebanon was subjected to similar pressure. Israel escalated its aggressions against southern villages, towns, and cities to the extent of displacing tens of thousands of Lebanese citizens and threatening an all-out sweep.

As usual, Israel used the pretext of national resistance, but the main reason was Lebanon's refusal to sign a separate agreement and its insistence on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, which requires Israel to unconditionally withdraw its forces from all of south Lebanon.

The same is true with Syria. After more than two and a half years of the Washington talks, several shuttle tours by the U.S. secretary of state, the summit meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton, and several statements by Israeli officials on their intentions to advance the peace process on the Syrian-Israeli track, it became clear that the Tel Aviv rulers reject full withdrawal from the Golan and the return to the 4 June 1967 borders. At the same time, these rulers demand the normalization of relations.

When we compare Israel's behavior on the three Arab tracks—the Syrian, Jordanian, and Lebanese—we find one thing: the Tel Aviv rulers have not abandoned their expansionist demands in the Arab territories, and they are far from the substance of the U.S. initiative, the principles of the Madrid conference, and the UN resolutions, which call for exchanging land for peace and withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders.

Israel succeeded in singling out the Palestinian side and drawing it into the position Israel had planned. Israel kept its ugly occupation and its sway over the capabilities of the Palestinian people, but it failed to penetrate any of the three Arab tracks—the Syrian, Jordanian, and Lebanese. Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon clearly announced that separate agreements are unequivocally rejected, and that peace depends on Israel's full withdrawal and the return of all occupied territories.

It is important that Arab coordination continues to reach the highest levels because Israel is searching for even a tiny crack in order to propagate its suspicious and distorted solutions, especially since the Gaza-Jericho agreement is facing more difficulties everyday, and is daily confronting new obstacles, the latest of which is Israel's demand that the Palestinian police chase and arrest the men of the intifadah in order to hand them over. This simply means employing the Palestinian police to protect the occupation forces in accordance with this ill-auguring agreement.

A quick look at the situation in the occupied territories after the Gaza-Jericho agreement and its implementation is enough to clearly show that just peace and occupation cannot coexist and that the realization of peace is dependent on the elimination of occupation. Hence, Syria firmly adheres to the demand of Israel's full withdrawal from every inch of the occupied Golan, and coordinates its position with those of its Arab brothers so that the Israeli withdrawal will be from all occupied territories, and subsequently, peace will be just, comprehensive, and real.

Al-Asad, Yemen's Salih Discuss Fighting

JN2105210994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih this evening phoned His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to congratulate him on the blessed 'Id al-Adha. They also discussed Yemeni developments. His excellency the president said he hoped fighting among the Yemeni brothers would be brought to an end and that the country would emerge from this sorry state as soon as possible.

Iran

Tehran Condemns Israeli Raid Into Lebanon

Ministry Decries Kidnapping

LD2205180194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] A spokesman of our country's Foreign Ministry condemned the Zionist enemy's aggressionist and terrorist action in kidnapping the leader of the Lebanese Believers' Resistance Movement, calling it a violation of the independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon.

He said: The reaction of America and other protectors of the Zionist regime clearly shows the level of adherence of those countries to international laws and the fight against state terrorism.

He added: The kidnapping of Mr. Mustapha al-Dirani by the Zionist regime's commandos and other terrorist actions of that regime inside and outside occupied Palestine and within the sovereign bounds of other countries demonstrate the true meaning of the peace and coexistence between the Zionist regime and Arab countries which America pursues.

He added: This is a warning to those who think by surrendering to the wishes of the Zionist regime peace and security would be maintained in the region.

Commentary Stresses Resistance

NC2205194694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 22 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] A spokesman for the Zionist entity's army has announced that Israeli commandos have kidnapped Mustafa al-Dirani, a leader of the Islamic resistance, from his house in the village of Qasr Naba in Lebanon's al-Biqa' Valley. Kidnapping and government terrorism are the main characteristics of the Zionist entity and the declared policies of Tel Aviv's Government.

Israel's brutal government lives in fear of the Muslims' power and the ability of the Islamic resistance front in Lebanon and occupied Palestine. The blows dealt by the Islamic resistance keep Israel in a constant state of nervousness. Therefore, it crushes all international values and norms and rushes to announce its responsibility for kidnappings, killings, and the most horrible crimes.

Israel has not minded perpetrating massacres, killing Palestinians and breaking their bones and demolishing their houses, and raiding south Lebanon and destroying residential areas in Iqlim al-Tuffah. After all, the usurper state of Israel was founded on the ideology of killing, terrorism, and crime. This is how it has managed to establish itself in the heart of the Islamic world for some length of time.

The Muslim Lebanese people, who are facing the Zionists in the first line of battle, have a long and enlightened history of confrontation with the Zionist entity. Over 13 years of direct Zionist intervention in Lebanon, interference by other international arrogant forces, and attempts by political Maronite forces to divide Lebanon, the revolutionary Muslims have played an important role in foiling all these conspiracies. The massacres of Sabra and Shatila, and the destructive war ignited by Michel 'Awn are still remembered. Those were links in a conspiracy designed to annihilate the Lebanese Muslims, restrict their freedom, and deny them their rights.

But it was the revolutionary Muslims who ended the theory of Israel's steel arm in southern Lebanon. They stood up against the despotic tendencies of Michel 'Awn's Maronite Army. They forced that Army, which paved the way for the Zionist aggression against Lebanon and the arrival of Israelis at the door of Beirut, to surrender. The Lebanese people foiled the schemes of Western espionage against Muslims. Their continued presence on the political stage, therefore, is the guarantee of Lebanon's independence and steadfastness in the face of Western schemes of partition and Zionist schemes of sedition.

The name of the Islamic resistance front is associated with the confrontation and repulsion of the Zionist aggressors. The Islamic resistance in southern Lebanon is the only defensive line against usurper Israel. Had the resistance not been there, the Zionists would have realized their dreams. Lebanon's entity is preserved through the jihad of the valiant Islamic resistance front. The Zionists perpetrate acts of terrorism and kidnapping because of their impotence and helplessness in the face of the Islamic resistance in southern Lebanon.

Raid Termed Sign of 'Weakness'

NC2305060794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 23 May 94

[Commentary prepared by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] Most of the attention in the Middle East remains focused on the illegal acts in east Lebanon by the regime occupying Jerusalem. Three days ago this regime's commandos kidnapped Mustafa al-Dirani, an official in Lebanon's Islamic Resistance, and took him to occupied Palestine. Al-Dirani is now being questioned and tortured by Israeli agents and, in their comments, Zionist officials have described this terrorist act as a sign of the Israeli army's capability, saying that the reason behind the kidnapping was to find out where one of its pilots whose plane crashed in Lebanon eight years ago is being held.

The Israeli aggressors have always resorted to terrorist means and have abducted or martyred people and 'ulema in south Lebanon. Among these acts, reference can be made to the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd, a Muslim leader, and the martyring of Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, the Lebanese Hizballah leader, and members of his family. But naturally, attacks on defenseless villages, armed attacks on homes where only women and children are being housed, and the killing of unarmed men actually show the weakness, not the military might, of the regime occupying Jerusalem.

Another fundamental point is the silence by world forums on this flagrant violation of international regulations and the abduction of people from another country. In addition to trampling on the sovereignty of Lebanon, this act basically shows how Israel ignores international regulations and turns a blind eye to principles that it has apparently endorsed. Undoubtedly, a serious stance by the United Nations and support by free countries can lead to an effective condemnation of Israel and its mentors. At the same time, it should be expected that the most crushing answer to this feeble act come from combatant Muslims whose valorous deeds have always inflicted the greatest and strongest blows on the Zionist regime.

Papers Condemn West's 'Silence'

LD2305081994 Tehran IRNA in English 0701 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA—Three Iranian dailies Monday commented on the kidnapping of the leader of 'the faithful resistance group of Lebanon', Mustafa al-Dirani and condemned the silence of international bodies on the tragedy. Reports indicate that Zionist forces kidnapped al-Dirani from his residence in eastern Lebanon early Saturday and took him away to the occupied terrritories. In its editorial, the Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' termed the act as the most explicit form of state terrorism displaying the inhuman nature of the Zionist regime once again. However, said the daily, such crimes by the Zionists have always been connived and even supported by the west and international community thus encouraging the criminals to further expand such heinous actions.

All evidences indicate that what has happened and is happening in Lebanon is precisely a planned conspiracy, said the editorial adding, "the Lebanese government on the one hand disarms the anti-Israeli forces and renders them defenseless against the aggressions of the occupiers and on the other leaves the Zionists free to intrude the Lebanese territory". The daily considered it possible that the Zionist regime carried out its operation in coordination with Maronite communities and the so-called security forces of Lebanon.

Under the circumstances, said the paper, no one is secure even in his own house as long as the occupying Zionists continue their heinous actions with impunity. The final solution is, therefore, the elimination of the Zionist regime, it added. The paper also said that the events of the past few months cast doubt on the sincerity of the Lebanese officials towards the resistance of southern Lebanon notwithstanding their occasional support.

The contemporary history of Lebanon has taught the people that they can defeat the brutal Zionists in their land if they keep an eye on the infiltrated mercenaries of Tel Aviv in every corner of the country. The editorial stressed that fighting against the occupiers is not possible without identifying lackeys.

Commenting on the same subject, another Persian daily 'ABRAR' criticized international bodies for keeping mum towards the abduction saying that they did not even condemn the explicit Zionist encroachment upon the Lebanese sovereignty. It said that the advantages the Zionost regime reaped from this operation and its ensuing propaganda against Iran and other progressive Muslim and nationalist forces in the Middle East deserve contemplation.

The paper stressed that the Americans seemingly have no problem in mending fences even with some of the anti-Zionist and Muslim forces in the region. However, this is not the case with Iran, it added. The editorial warned that if Damascus joins the reconciliation trend of the so-called peace talks in the Middle East, the western mass media and certain regional governments will launch a propaganda to label Iran as a country who endangers the security of the region. Washington envisages that Iran would take a passive stance vis-a-vis the developments in the Middle East once Damascus joins the reconciliation trend, wrote the paper. The daily called for the mobilization of all diplomatic potentials to avoid landing in such a situation and called for adopting a strategy based on national security and interests.

The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' referred to the statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that the kidnapping had been carried out under the direct supervision of his government and asked what powers are behind the terrorist regime whose chief of government shamelessly proclaim he had issued orders for the operation. "The most interesting aspect of the situation, if it is at all possible to find an interesting aspect in this criminal act, is the new definitions the western statesmen offer for some of the political terms, and then use the vast network of the mass media they have at their disposal to publicise those illogical definitions." According to the new political terminology devised by the Americans, said the paper, a nation that is fighting for the freedom of its land is a terrorist nation, whereas a government that openly occupies territories from other nations and kidnaps people is an anti-terrorist government. "The Zionist regime's justifications for engaging in terrorist acts is indicative of its irrational aggressive attitude," stressed the editorial.

Turning to the Zionist regime's claims that Arad was captured when his plane was downed in southern lebanon during a bombardment mission, it said that

Hizballah should put the airman on trial as a war criminal and punish him indeed if they have him in their captivity. "The trial of this war criminal will be a good lesson for other Israeli pilots who commit the inhuman act of slaughtering women and children in southern Lebanon," concluded the daily.

Fallout From Hajj Dispute Continues

President Addresses Issue

LD2005144194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 20 May 94

[Second Friday sermon by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 20 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

Another issue is the issue of hajj. Unfortunately, this year with the immaturity shown by the Saudi regime, our society was deprived of its holy objectives in this political and religious rite of Islam [disavowal of infidels ceremony]. The Saudis addressed the issue very badly. They could have solved the problem much more sensibly and not caused differences between the two important countries of the region. They could have taken more of our pilgrims. The ceremonies could have taken place in a way so as not to cause any problems for them. We had informed them that we did not wish to disturb anyone and that we intended to hold religious ceremonies. However, we have to wait to see under what conditions they took this immature step, we have to wait to understand its roots.

Of course, today Islamic unity and the unity of Muslims is very important for us as a principle alongside the principle of disavowal. We attach as much importance to friendship as we do to disavowal. These two go together. To prevent a new crisis and with the agreement of the esteemed leader [Khamene'i], we prevented the occurrence of a new sedition in Arabia.

We do not think it is appropriate under the current conditions in the world of Islam ...[sentence incomplete as heard] The world of Islam has many crisis points: Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Nagorno-Karabakh, Bosnia, Palestine, Somalia, Iraq—and recently, unfortunately, Yemen in which a senseless, wrong-headed civil war has been started and in which Muslims are being sacrificed for the selfishness and ambitions of various individuals and factions. The blood of the people is being shed, the wealth of the poor people of this region is being burned. We have so many crisis points. The leader of the revolution wisely prevented another crisis taking shape.

However, the Saudis should think harder about this issue. A task that does not cause them any disruption and which can be correctly undertaken with the agreement of both sides ...[sentence incomplete as heard]. A hajj that means hajj to a Shiite can take place. We hope that the situation they created this year will act as a lesson to them so that it is not repeated next year. [passage omitted]

We hope that we can have a program acceptable to both sides for next year's hajj in which both our views and the views of the Saudis are catered for, and through which the Saudis' concerns will be alleviated. [passage omitted]

Finally I would like to refer to my recent visit to Gilan Province. If I deliver a sermon after such visits I usually refer to them and explain a few issues. People are quite aware and I only mention a few points. Many things became clearer to us during that visit. Indeed we saw Gilan Province full of epic, solidly on the [revolution] scene, faithful to the revolution and supportive of our imam [Khomeyni] and our leader [Khamene'i]. [passage omitted]

Anywhere we went masses of people gathered—in Rasht and other provinces—which was even beyond our expectations. Usually the end of the crowd could not be seen. People were so happy and cheerful which made one wonder about the amazing negative propaganda bombardment that our people are subjected to. Various podiums within the country, media and foreign radios usually enlarge problems. They speak of high prices, inflation, economic and political problems, and other small talk. They speak of ordinary incidents as huge incidents causing insecurity. And such a great deal of propaganda bombardment has not had the slightest effect on the people. That is very strange. Why are our people so aware? Of course that awareness does not exist only in Gilan Province. [passage omitted]

I think that our people see the realities of life and juxtapose them against this misleading propaganda and slogans and realize how much the revolution has done for them. [passage omitted]

U.S. Said To Fear Spread of Islam

LD2105135094 Tehran IRNA in English 1206 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] 'Arafat, May 21, IRNA—Head of the Iranian hajj pilgrims, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri said here Friday [20 May] that U.S. is trying to target Iran for fear of the globalization of Islam.

Reyshahri, who was addressing a large group of hajj pilgrims, said whether the enemies like it or not, they should know that the Almighty's promise is true and Islam will eventually fill the earth.

He referred to prayer as a strong weapon against the enemies and said today is a day that one should pray for deliverance from the enemy, especially for the immediate annihilation of the U.S. and its mercenaries.

Reyshahri added: "To whom (other than God) should we complain that we cannot disavow polytheists and cannot chant death to the criminal U.S. which commits crimes against Islam and Muslims?"

He censured those responsible for banning holding of the rally against disbelievers and said "pilgrims intended to voice their disavowal of polytheists at the ka'ba but were not allowed.

"We would complain to Imam Mahdi (may God hasten his reappearance) to take our revenge."

Reyshahri said the pilgrims' silence made people in even the remotest parts of the world aware of the real facts.

Saudi authorities last Monday forced the Iranian pilgrims to cancel the scheduled rally despite earlier promises to allow its holding.

Theologians Protest Ban on Rally

LD2105174494 Tehran IRNA in English 1713 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA—The students and staff of the Qom Theological Centre felicitated the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i here Saturday [21 May] on the occasion of 'Id-ul-Adha and deplored the unislamic attitude of Saudi rulers.

"Although Muslims feel bitter about the Saudi regime's banning of the disavowal of polytheists rally, as was evident in your valuable remarks, it is a matter of regret that a government which styles itself as servant of holy shrines obstructs such rally at the centre of monotheism and revelation," read the message.

It hoped the Saudi regime would realize its folly of following the dictates of Zionism and arrogant powers, especially the criminal U.S., and next year would allow pilgrims to stage the disavowal of polytheists rally which is a basic part of the "Abrahmic Hajj".

Commentary Warns of Further 'Turmoil' in Yemen

LD2105202494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 21 May 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Following more than two weeks of fierce fighting between the forces of north and south Yemen, the secretary general of Yemen Socialist Party, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, announced the formation of an independent state in South Yemen today, May 21.

In the wake of the announcement, al-Bid said: The new country will be one according to the present constitution in the north. He added: Elections will be held in the country within a period of one year. The news related to the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Yemen has been published at a time when the Yemeni Government in Sanaa called for the implementation of a three-day cease-fire in the civil war in that country late Friday [20 May].

Meanwhile incoming reports say that the southern forces have withdrawn from the strategic al-Anad base which has fallen to the northern forces. Though according to informed sources the forces of the north are advancing toward Aden, the capital of the south, but the resistance being put up by the southern forces will not make it so easy for the northern forces to capture Aden, the main headquarters of the Socialist Party.

At any rate, Yemen's present situation and its redivision speak of the fact that with the passage of four years since the unification of the two northern and southern sectors, in May 1990, the trend adopted by the Yemeni leaders had neither been logical nor in line with the basic principle of unity. The Socialist Party's concern over its limited role in running the country's affairs and the resulting dissension over the division of power, which surfaced openly after the parliamentary elections in April last year, laid the foundation for the present deep differences. This is so because, despite the reunification of the northern and southern sectors, as the Congress Party and the Socialist Party were considered opponents in the past due to their different ideologies, the tension between them deepened following the weakening of the Socialist Party after the parliamentary elections—so much so that al-Bid stopped taking part in political activities 10 months ago. In this connection he offered an 18-point plan for running the country on the basis of a federal system calling for a far more serious role for the Socialist Party. However considering it as being a threat against the unity, the Yemeni president rejected the plan. This led to the deepening of differences and the fear that the Yemeni crisis may assume regional proportions. So certain regional countries mediated in the matter and a reconciliation accord was signed in Amman, but these efforts did not yield any result. According to political analysts, the two rival parties had assumed that with the failure of political efforts military means could have proved effective in reducing the tension or that it would at least secure the interests of one of the two sides. But it is war, bloodshed, and the loss of natural and financial resources that Yemen is currently witnessing. Further, in view of the fact that unity had been the goal of the nation and even the state officials, the outcome of the independence announced by the southerners as the final solution to the deep ongoing crisis will not encompass the national will and may plunge Yemen in yet deeper turmoil.

Nation 'Punished' for Backing Saddam

LD2205084894 Tehran IRNA in English 0623 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—A morning daily here Sunday [22 May] said that recent developments in Yemen are alarming and would jeopardize stability in the region.

"Remaining passive observers, regional countries did little to stop the crisis, except to make formal bids for unsuccessful mediation between former communist

South Yemen and former conservative North Yemen, which merged in 1990," wrote the daily 'TEHRAN TIMES.'

The two Yemen, said the editorial, were different culturally and economically and it was natural that it would have taken time for them to be one. Therefore, Yemenis needed moral support and economic assistance which they could not receive for pure political reasons and because of drastic global changes, the article said.

"Most observers believe that Yemenis are punished by the United States and its allies in the region because of Sanaa's support of Saddam Husayn during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990." Naturally, Iran is concerned with events in Yemen and recently offered to mediate. "Iran is the only country in the region which remains neutral so that Tehran's moves might bear fruit."

The daily concluded by calling on leaders of Yemen to listen to voice of reason and invest all sources at their disposal for the reconstruction of their country. "The Yemeni people need bread and butter and jobs which can be provided through development projects, not bullets."

U.S. Seen Hindering Ties With Turkmenistan

LD2205144394 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—The U.S. is trying by all possible means to hinder the expansion of relations between Iran and Turkmenistan, an informed source told IRNA Sunday [22 May].

He said that the U.S., using its influence on oil and gas consortium in Turkmenistan, was doing its best to obstruct the construction of a pipeline for export of Turkmen gas via Iran and Turkey. The source, who asked not to be named, said the orders issued by President Niyazov on setting up of a gas pipeline to Europe via Iran and Turkey were generally ignored by those at the lower part of that country's chain of command manily due to obstacles put by Washington.

The U.S. has so far created numerous problems for Iran-Turkmenistan joint project by exercising its influence. The Turkmen minister of oil and gas is said to be one of critics of President Niyazov's views, having close links with the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. People such as the Turkmen minister of oil and gas have recently come out with new proposals that the proposed pipeline pass through Azerbaijan and Georgia instead of Iran and Turkey.

The source said that the Islamic Republic has informed President Niyazov through various channels of its dissatisfaction with Washington's attempts to block expansion of ties between Iran and Turkmenistan.

Ministry's Handling of Karabakh Crisis Criticized

NC2205085794 Tehran SALAM in Persian 16 May 94 pp 12, 3

[Commentary by M. Paydar: "The Karabakh Crisis and the Need for Vigilance"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis is wrapped in ambiguity. Iran, which has always been involved in the Karabakh crisis and has exerted many efforts to find a solution to the war, has unfortunately remained silent on the outcome of the Bishkek conference and on the possible dispatch of military forces to the region. Unfortunately none of the sides—the Russians, the Azeris, and the Armenians—were ready to grant Tehran a role in the recent talks and they treated Iran more marginally than was apparent.

At any rate, a country should know its own limits and how it can influence those around it. It is not logical for our country's political cadre and Foreign Ministry officials to be satisfied merely with some remarks by an Azeri or Armenian official on the importance of Iran's role in the region while being excluded from the scene with no hurt feelings. A new situation is in the making in the Caucasus region, and the geopolitical situation of the region will soon undergo more changes. Our diplomats' silence will not solve any problems. What is the use of assessing a situation after it is over? This call for vigilance is being issued today. We hope that the nation's officials will be more responsible in dealing with press reaction on political issues.

Delegation To Visit Iraq To Discuss POW's

NC2205130494 Paris AFP in English 1242 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 22 (AFP)—An Iranian delegation is to visit Iraq on June 11 to discuss the fate of POWs from the 1980-1988 war, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said.

Velayati, quoted on Sunday by ETELLA'AT newspaper, said the visit was initially scheduled to take place next week, but that it had been postponed at the request of Baghdad. The minister did not say whether or not he would be heading the delegation.

Tehran radio said on May 4 that Velayati was preparing a trip to Iraq to discuss bilateral ties and the fate of thousands of prisoners of war from both countries. If the visit takes place, it would be the first by Velayati to Iraq since the 1991 Gulf War, when U.S.-led forces drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

The POW issue is the main obstacle to improved relations between the two neighbors. Tehran says Iraq is still holding 8,000 of its citizens, military and civilian, including soldiers captured almost 20 years ago in border skirmishes. But Iraq has denied holding any and claims 20,000 of its own troops are being held in Iran.

Iran said last week that Iraq had freed three Iranian prisoners, the first such release in two years. Iran has unilaterally released hundreds of Iraqi POWs during the past two years.

Army Exercises Mark Khorramshahr's Liberation

LD2205085794 Tehran IRNA in English 0823 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—Thousands of ground forces of the Islamic Republic's Army Sunday participated in 'Ra'ad 7' (thunder) maneuver in Darengon region of Shiraz, Southern Fars Province.

The public relations office of the Army reported today that the five-day maneuver is carried out on the 13th anniversary of the liberation of the southern port city of Khorramshahr, Khuzestan Province, occupied by the Iraqi forces during the Iraqi invasion of Iran in 1981.

Electronic equipment as well as heavy and light weapons will be used in the military exercise which is being staged to further improve the combat power of the forces, the report said.

It also added that three more maneuvers are to be launched in Khuzestan, Khorasan and Tehran Provinces marking the Khorramshahr liberation anniversary.

Ra'ad 7 Exercise Continues

LD2305095894 Tehran IRNA in English 0938 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Shiraz, Fars Prov. May 23, IRNA—The second and third phases of the military exercise code-named 'Ra'ad 7' (Thunder) were successfully launched Sunday night and Monday morning in Darengon region of Shiraz, capital of the southern province of Fars.

Several army units, including the infantry, artillery and airborne, took part in the military exercise, carried out in an area of 150 square kilometers. The first phase of the maneuver was launched in the same region Sunday morning.

A number of local military officials, including military commander of Fars Brigadier General Ahmad Dadbin, who described the military exercise as successful, inspected the maneuver.

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